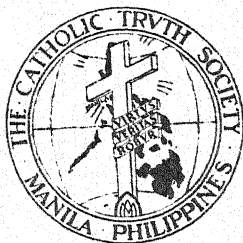


MY BIBLE HISTORY

I N P I C T U R E S

By

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Bishop of Krishnagar



Revised Edition

CATHOLIC TRADE SCHOOL

1916 OROQUIETA

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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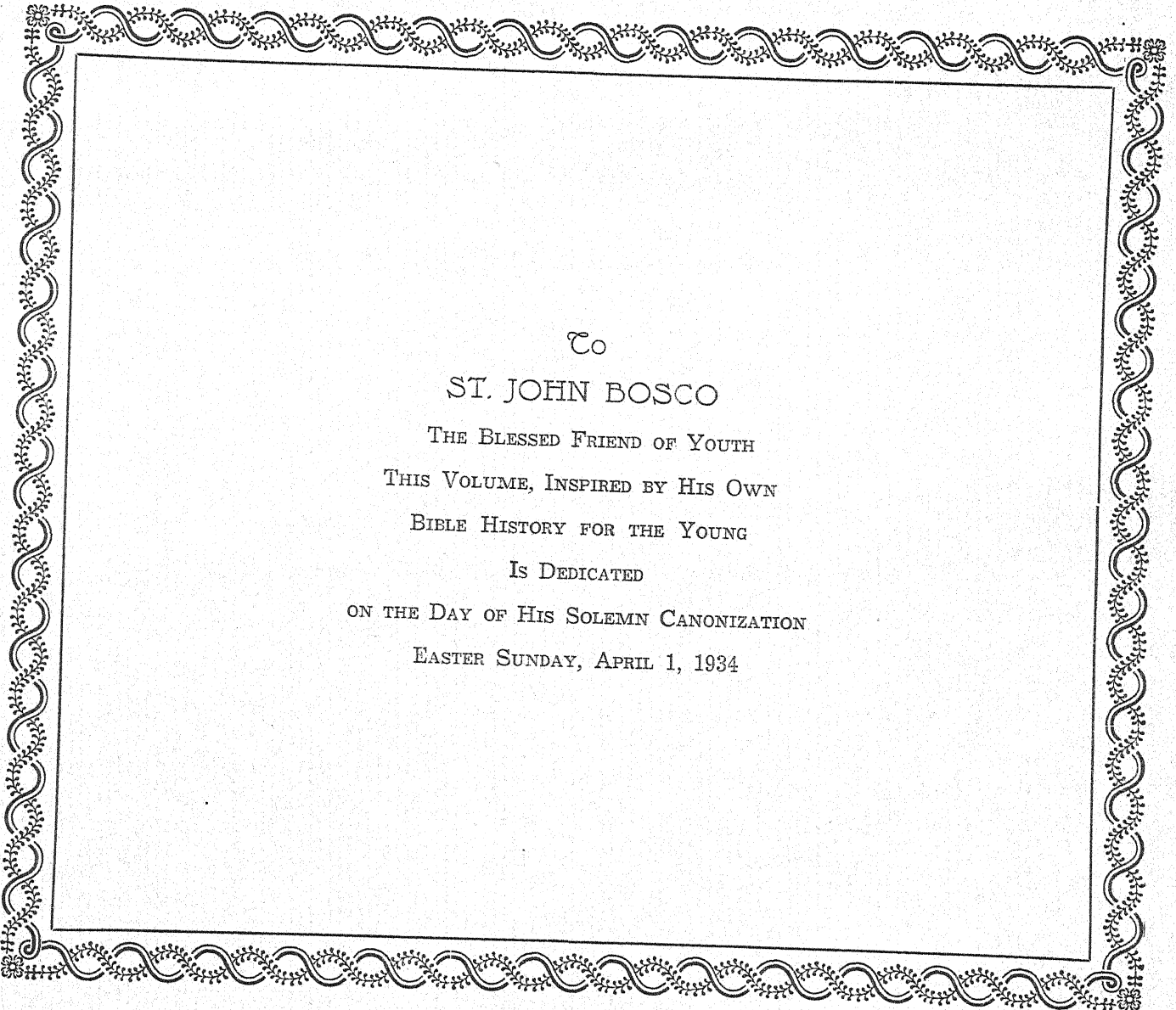
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To
ST. JOHN BOSCO
THE BLESSED FRIEND OF YOUTH
THIS VOLUME, INSPIRED BY HIS OWN
BIBLE HISTORY FOR THE YOUNG
IS DEDICATED
ON THE DAY OF HIS SOLEMN CANONIZATION
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 1934

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Foreword

HOLY Scripture consists of those books which were written under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and recognized by the Church as the Word of God. The word *Bible* is used to refer to Holy Scripture, because in Greek the word signifies *book*: and Holy Scripture is the Book of books, whose Author is God Himself.

There are seventy-two books in the Bible, written by different persons at different times, but all under the inspiration of God. The first books were written by Moses about 1500 B.C.; the last one, the Apocalypse, was written by St. John the Evangelist about 100 A.D. Those books which were written before the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ form the Old Testament or Old Law; while those written after His coming form the New Testament or New Law.

It is very important to bear in mind that it is through the Holy Catholic Church alone, which was instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we can know what books are to be recognized as having been inspired by God. It

is likewise important to remember that, as many passages in Holy Scripture are difficult to understand, and may be subject to different interpretations if left to the discretion of each individual, the Catholic Church has the assistance of the Holy Ghost to point out and teach the correct interpretation of all matters concerning doctrine or morals.

"MY BIBLE HISTORY" aims to narrate the principal events and teachings of Holy Scripture in language that can be understood by all. The accompanying illustrations will help to explain and visualize the events. In order that the reader may have an idea of the time when the principal events occurred, we indicate the approximate date in some of the stories. It must, however, be borne in mind that in the first eras of human history, people had neither the interest nor the means to calculate time in terms of consecutive years and centuries. This is why dates given are merely approximate, according to the illustrious Bible teacher Calmet. These computations do not

pretend to any exactness, especially for events occurring before the time of King David.

The reader of "MY BIBLE HISTORY" will notice the frequent use, in the Old Testament stories, of the words "type" and "figure". These words refer to a person, thing, or action having its own absolute and independent existence, but at the same time intended by God to prefigure a future person, thing, or action. For example, on page 107, in the story "Jonas and the Fish", we find Jonas staying three days in the fish. He was a *figure* of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who remained three days buried in the earth. On page 67, "Manna in the Wilderness", manna was a *type* of the Blessed Sacrament which is the food of our souls in the desert of life.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, it aims to teach us how to come nearer to Him, and to walk along His ways. In the same spirit, "MY BIBLE HISTORY" contains many moral teachings which the Bible intends to give. Many of these salutary reflections were taken from the Bible History prepared by St. John Bosco, the Friend of Youth. As "MY BIBLE

HISTORY" is mainly for the young, this has moved us to dedicate this work to St. John Bosco, on the day of his solemn canonization, Easter Sunday, April 1st, 1934.

Every Catholic recognizes the importance of the Bible. Our Holy Mother Church desires her children to read and study it often, in order to learn all contained in it. Her reverence for the Bible is shown by the fact that the principal parts of the Mass, the prayers in the Breviary used daily by priests, and the prayers in liturgical ceremonies, come from the Bible.

"MY BIBLE HISTORY" is not the work of any one person. Several cooperated in bringing about the publication of this work. It is to these self-sacrificing and zealous friends, who for the love of God have aided in making His Word known, that we render our sincere acknowledgments and thanks.

We hope that "MY BIBLE HISTORY" will help disseminate the Word of God, Holy Scripture, that it may be the source of salvation for many a soul.

Manila, Easter Sunday, April 1st, 1934.

L. L.R. M.

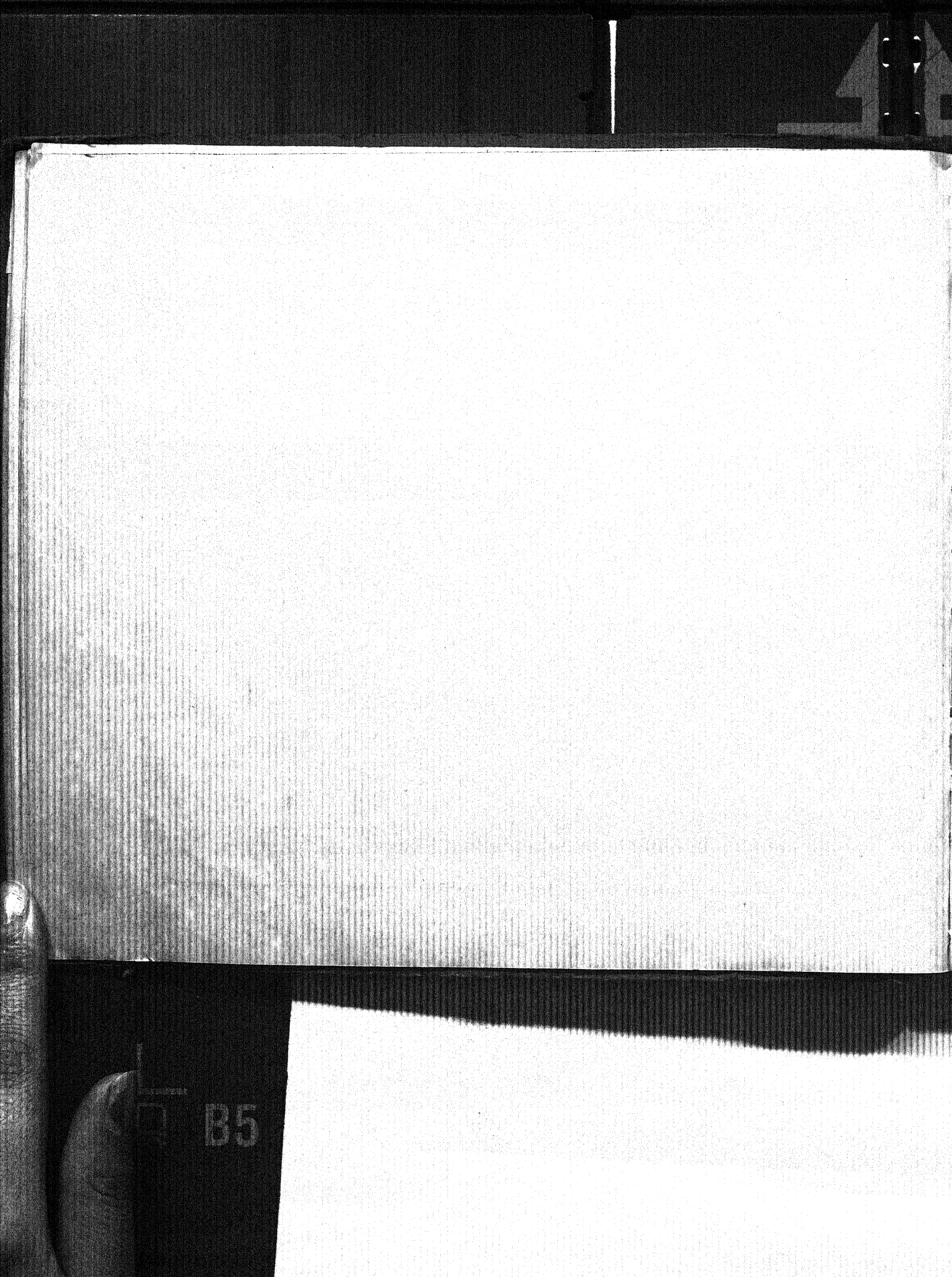
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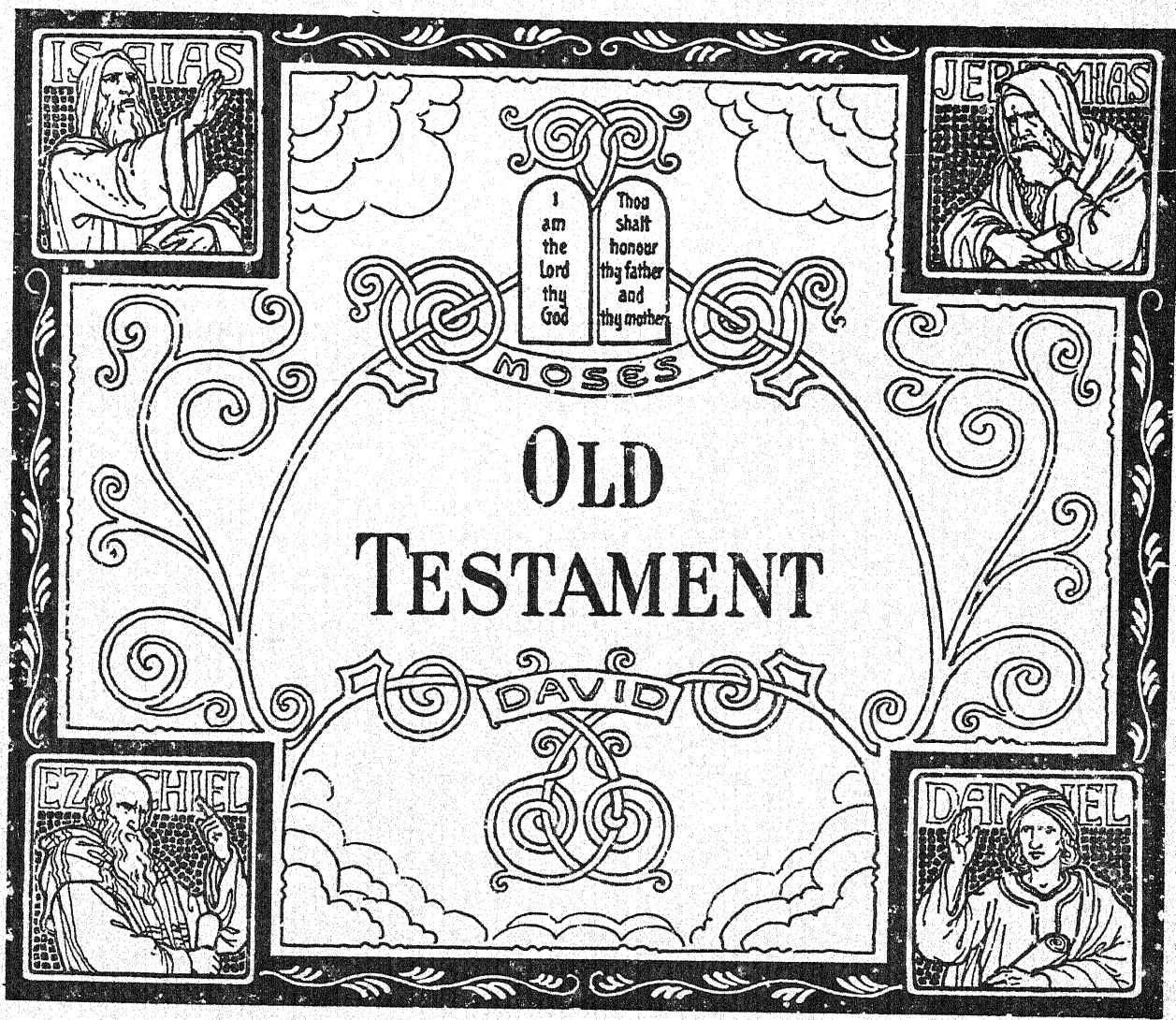
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On the fourth day God created the sun, the moon, and the stars.

1. The Creation

GOD has always lived. He had no beginning, and He will have no end.

There was a time when only God lived. Then out of nothing, by His almighty power, He made everything — heaven, and earth, and all things in heaven and on earth.

Out of nothing God created the earth. At first it was dark and all covered with water. Then God said, "Be light made," and at once light appeared. God separated light from darkness. He called the light Day, and the darkness Night. This was all done the first day.

On the second day, God commanded, "Let there be a sky to divide the waters." The blue sky was made, and God called it Heaven.

On the third day God spoke: "Let the waters under Heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. Let this dry land bring forth grass, and trees, and plants of every kind." As God said, so everything was done. He called the waters Seas, and the dry land He called Earth.

On the fourth day God created the sun, the moon, and the stars. He said, "Let these heavenly lights separate day from night; let them mark the days, the seasons, and the years."

On the fifth day, God created the fishes and other creatures that were to live in the Seas. He also made birds, and other creatures that were to fly in the sky. God blessed them, saying, "Increase and multiply."

On the sixth day God made all the animals that were to live on the ground. Then God said, "I shall make man in My image. I shall make man to rule over all the things that I have created." God formed man out of the dust of the earth. Then He breathed into him a soul that will never die.

And God saw all the things that He had made, and they were very good.

On the seventh day God rested from His work. He blessed the day and made it holy.

Catholics are obliged to keep Sundays and holydays of obligation holy, by hearing Mass and abstaining from servile work.



The Archangel Michael, with the hosts of good angels, drove Lucifer and the bad angels into hell.

2. The Battle of the Angels

GOD made Angels, to adore Him and carry out His commands. They are pure spirits: that is, they have souls only, and no bodies. This is why we cannot see Angels.

God wanted the Angels to live forever in heaven with Him. He made them so beautiful that we cannot imagine their loveliness. When He made them, they were all perfectly beautiful, good, and holy. They were in the grace of God, and very happy with Him.

Of all the Angels, the most wonderful for his glory and beauty was Lucifer (which means "Bearer of Light"). This beauty and glory had all come from God. But instead of blessing his Creator, Lucifer became very proud of himself. At last he came to think himself as great as God.

Lucifer cried out against God, "I will not obey!" Having tempted other Angels to join him, he led them in revolt against God, crying, "I will be like the Most High!"

Now the Archangel Michael loved God and was faithful. He cried, "Who is like God?" He called good Angels to join him against Lucifer and his wicked angels.

And a great battle took place. Michael

and his good angels drove Lucifer and the wicked ones into hell.

Lucifer, who was all glory and beauty, is now called Satan, the devil, the demon. No one can imagine his wickedness and ugliness. And the bad angels in hell are devils, like their head Satan.

God rewarded the good angels with everlasting happiness with Him in Heaven. But God punished Satan and the other devils in hell forever.

There are nine choirs of Angels: Seraphim, cherubim, dominations, thrones, virtues, principalities, powers, archangels, and angels.

Among the angels, the ones especially given charge of men are the Guardian Angels. They guard and protect us, and inspire us with good thoughts. They are always near us; we should always try to listen to their advice, and pray to them in all dangers. Each of us has a Guardian Angel into whose care God gave us, because He loves us so much.

Devils may tempt us to sin, but with the grace of God we can fight against these temptations. We must fly from temptations and occasions of sin.



God gave Eve to Adam for his companion. Thus He established the ordinance of marriage.

3. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

GOD called the first man Adam. God loved him, and planted a beautiful garden for him to live in. This was the Garden of Eden, or Paradise.

In Paradise God put all kinds of trees, plants, flowers, and fruits. He made a clear river that flowed through it. He brought beasts and birds before Adam, that he might give them names.

Then, in the middle of the Garden, God planted two trees: the Tree of Life, and the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. Calling Adam, God said to him, "You may eat of the fruit of every other tree in the Garden. But you must not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of it, you shall surely die."

God in His goodness and wisdom wished to give Man the precious gift of liberty or free will. This is his freedom to choose between good and evil.

If man chooses the good, he will receive an eternal reward in Heaven. But if he disobeys God and chooses evil, he will be punished in hell. God is good, but He is also just: He rewards the good and

punishes the wicked.

Then God said to Himself, "It is not good for man to be alone. Let Me make a companion like unto him."

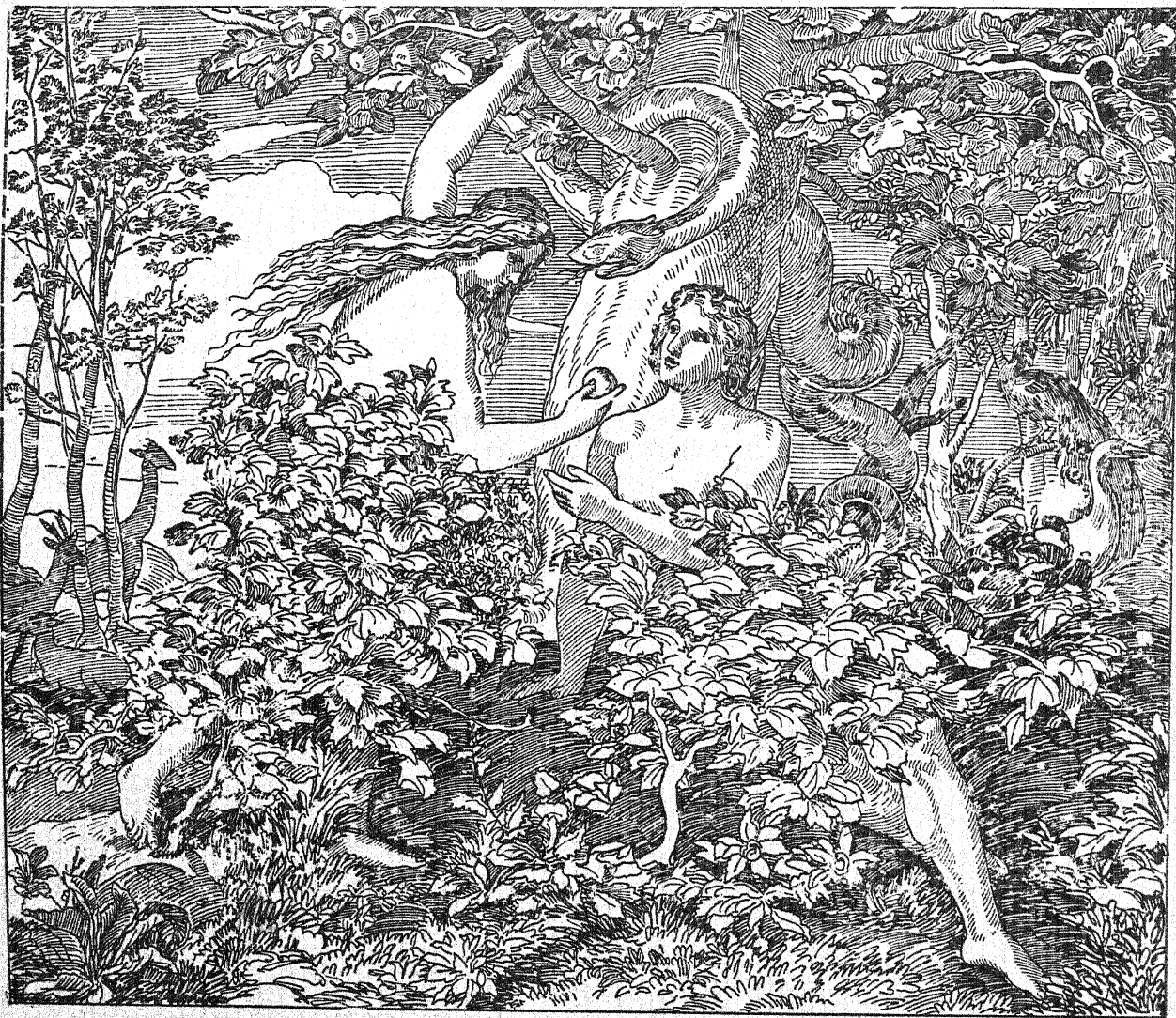
So God put Adam to sleep, and taking one of his ribs, formed out of it a woman. When Adam awoke, God gave him the woman for his companion. She was called Eve, meaning "Mother of all the living."

Adam said of Eve, "This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh."

In this way God instituted the ordinance of marriage in the Garden of Paradise. When Jesus Christ came on earth, He raised marriage to the dignity of a Sacrament. He honored it by His presence and first miracle at Cana of Galilee.

Adam and Eve were very happy in Paradise. The Tree of Life kept them free from sickness and death. They had everything their hearts could desire. Best of all, they had the love of God: they were in God's grace.

The Tree of Life is a figure of the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, of which it is written: "He who is fed by it shall live forever."



Eve plucked the forbidden fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam and he also ate.

4. Man's First Sin

IN PARADISE Adam and Eve had everything their hearts could desire. They felt neither pain, nor want, nor sorrow. To them God had promised immortality: as long as they were obedient, they would not die.

But Satan was jealous and resolved to tempt them to disobey God. For this, he made use of the serpent.

One day Eve was near the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. The devil in the serpent asked her, "Why has God commanded you, that you should not eat of every tree of Paradise?"

Eve answered, "Of the fruit of the trees that are in Paradise we do eat. But of the fruit of the Tree which is in the midst of Paradise, God has commanded us that we should not eat, and that we should not touch it, lest perhaps we die."

But the devil, tempting Eve, said, "No, you shall not die. God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like gods, knowing good and evil."

Eve did not turn away from the tempter, as she should have done at once.

She listened to him, and so was led into sin. She looked at the Tree, and at the fruit. She thought that she would like to be as great as God.

If we do not want to commit sin, we must fly immediately from all occasions of sin. We must not do as Eve did.

At last Eve wanted to eat the fruit, although she knew that God had forbidden it. She plucked the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam, and he also ate. They knowingly and wilfully disobeyed God: they committed sin.

As soon as Adam and Eve had eaten, they felt how ugly their sin was. They were filled with shame and fear. They sewed together fig leaves, and made themselves clothes to cover their nakedness.

When Adam and Eve heard God walking in the Garden, they ran to hide themselves among the trees. They foolishly thought that they could hide from Him.

By this sin our first parents lost the grace of God. Since then all their children have been born without the grace of God, and with original sin. Original sin is washed away in the Sacrament of Baptism.

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God drove Adam and Eve out of Paradise. At the gate He placed Cherubim with a flaming sword.

5. The Punishment for Disobedience

IN THE Garden God called Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam came forth from his hiding-place and answered, "I heard Your voice in Paradise, and I was afraid."

God asked Adam why he had eaten of the forbidden fruit. Adam tried to excuse himself, saying, "The woman whom You gave me to be my companion gave me of the Tree, and I did eat."

God turned to Eve and asked, "Why have you done this?"

Eve replied, "The serpent deceived me, and I did eat."

Then God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this thing, you are cursed among all cattle and beasts of the earth." God condemned the serpent to crawl upon the ground and to eat dust always.

God said to the serpent, "I will put enmities between you and the woman, and your seed and her seed. She shall crush your head." In these words God foretold the coming of a Redeemer to save mankind from the devil, a Redeemer to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

God told Eve that for her disobedience she should bring forth her children in sorrow and pain, and that she should always be subject to her husband.

Turning to Adam, God rebuked him and said, "Cursed is the earth in your work. With labor and toil you shall eat thereof all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you. You shall eat the herbs of the earth. In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread till you return to the earth out of which you were taken. For dust thou art, and into dust thou shalt return."

God then clothed Adam and Eve in garments of skins, and sent them out of Paradise. At the gate He placed Cherubim with a flaming sword turning every way, to prevent their return.

Because of their disobedience, our first parents were driven out of Paradise into a world of suffering.

All the miseries we suffer on earth are the results of our first parents' sin and of our own sins. They are the punishment for breaking God's commands.



Cain struck down Abel and killed him.



God said to Cain, "You shall be a wanderer upon the earth."

6. Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve. Cain grew up to be a farmer; Abel became a shepherd. Cain was envious and cruel; Abel was loving and kind.

One day, Cain and Abel both offered gifts to God. Cain offered some fruit and grain that he had raised. Abel brought some little lambs from his flock.

God looked into the heart of Cain and saw that it was full of wickedness. He therefore refused Cain's gift.

But when God looked in the heart of Abel, He saw it filled with goodness. He therefore accepted Abel's gift with pleasure.

This made Cain more jealous than ever. He made up his mind to kill Abel.

Some time later, Cain asked Abel to go with him into the fields. When they had walked some distance, and there were no other people near, Cain struck down his brother Abel and killed him.

God saw everything that Cain had done. He asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

Cain tried to hide his sin from God.

He answered, "I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?"

God rebuked him, saying, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me. Cursed shall you be upon the earth that has received your brother's blood. When you plow it, it shall not yield to you its fruit. You shall be a wanderer and a vagabond upon the earth."

Hearing how he was to be punished, Cain cried out in despair, "My sin is too great to be pardoned! I must hide myself from Your face. Everyone that finds me will kill me."

But God answered, "No, it shall not be so. Whoever kills Cain shall be punished sevenfold."

And God set a mark upon Cain as a sign, so that no one should kill him. Cain went forth to wander over the earth, and to suffer for his sin. His children also suffered for their father's sins.

We should not be like Cain, who tried to hide his sins from God. If we fall into sin, we should at once be sorry for our sin, go to Confession, and resolve never to sin any more.



God said to Noe, "Go and build an ark of wood, that you may be saved."

7. The Ark of Noe

WHEN Adam and Eve learned how Cain had murdered Abel, they were very sad. God, taking pity on them, sent them another son, whom they called Seth. This son grew up to be a good man.

The children of Seth honored God and lived according to His commands. Because of their goodness, they were called children of God.

The children of Cain, however, grew up full of wickedness. They neither sought God, nor wished to serve Him. After a while the children of Cain began to marry the children of God. Then the sons and daughters born to these parents also became wicked. At last most of the men on earth turned evil, because of the children of Cain.

When God saw how men forgot and disobeyed Him, He was full of sorrow. He said, "I am sorry that I ever created the earth. Now men are unclean because of sin. I will destroy them all, and all other living creatures. I will wipe every living thing from the face of the earth."

Among the wicked people there lived a good man, Noe, who still loved God. So

God said to him, "Men have turned away from Me; and have defiled themselves and the good earth that I created. They no longer seek Me nor obey My commands. I will destroy them. I will send rain for forty days. A great flood shall rise to wipe away every living creature from the face of the earth. But because you honor and obey Me, I shall spare you. Go, therefore, and build an ark of wood. When it is finished, take your wife, your sons, and their families, and enter the ark that you may be saved."

Noe did all that God had commanded. He built an ark of wood. It was three stories high, and was divided into little rooms. It took Noe over one hundred years to build it. Then, with his family, Noe entered the Ark. God also told him to carry enough food, and to take with him seven pairs of certain animals, and two pairs of the other animals. When all of them had entered, the door was closed and fastened.

What a fearful thing sin must be, that God should have wished to punish it in such a terrible manner!

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The water rose higher and higher till it covered even the mountains.
All living things, except those in the Ark, perished.

8. The Great Flood (2348 B.C.)

AFTER the closing of Noe's Ark, God sent the rain in torrents upon the earth. For forty days and forty nights heavy rain fell and flooded the land.

The waters rose higher and higher till even the mountains were covered. Every living thing — bird, beast, and man — was drowned. All living things died except those who were in the Ark.

After forty days the rain stopped, but the waters remained on the earth for one hundred and fifty days. Then a wind blew over the earth, and the flood went down. The waters sank away from the earth, until one day the Ark stood still. It had come to rest on the top of a mountain.

Noe waited forty days. Then he opened the window of the Ark and sent out a raven. The raven flew back and forth over the waters, but did not return to the Ark.

Then Noe sent out a dove. Finding no place on which to alight, the dove returned to the Ark. After another week, Noe again sent out the dove. In the evening it returned with a green olive branch in

its beak. By this Noe knew that the waters were leaving the earth.

After one more week, Noe sent forth the dove a third time. It did not return, and Noe knew that the waters were no longer covering the earth. And so Noe with his wife, his sons, their families, and all living creatures went forth out of the Ark on to the dry land.

Noe was very grateful to God. He built an altar, and upon it offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. God was pleased with Noe and promised, "The waters will never again become a flood to destroy all living things. This is the sign of our agreement: I will put the rainbow in the sky. Whenever the rainbow appears, I will remember My promise."

Then God blessed Noe and all the other creatures that had been saved. He said, "Increase and multiply, and replenish the earth."

The Ark of Noe was the figure of the Catholic Church founded by Our Lord Jesus Christ, the one place of refuge in which we may find salvation.



To punish the foolish builders of the Tower of Babel, God confounded their speech.
The builders separated and spread over the earth.

9. The Tower of Babel

NOE had three sons—Sem, Cham, and Japhet. They helped him take care of his vineyard.

Once, when the time came to gather the grapes, Noe drank too much wine, because he did not know its strength. Becoming very drunk, he lay exposed in his tent.

Cham saw him. Instead of covering his father, he went laughing, to tell his brothers. Sem and Japhet, filled with filial love, went to where Noe slept, and walking backwards, covered their father.

When Noe awoke and learned what had taken place, he cursed Cham's descendants through Chanaan, Cham's son. But he blessed Sem and Japhet.

Noe lived for about nine hundred and fifty years. After his death many of his descendants forgot God. They became proud and ungrateful. They were so numerous that many families had to move to distant lands. However, before separating, they resolved in their pride to build a city and tower that would reach heaven.

Their pride was quickly punished. God confounded their speech; that is, He made them talk in different languages. Before that time, they had only one language. Now they could not understand each other. They therefore gave up their plan of the tower, which they had already started. This is why the tower is called Babel, because of the confusion of tongues. The builders scattered all over the earth.

The descendants of Sem, from whom the Israelites sprang, spread over the greater part of Asia. Those of Cham settled in Africa, while those of Japhet passed over to Europe.

In their wanderings the foolish workmen of Babel carried with them a remembrance of the Flood and of the existence of a Supreme Being. This is why even among uncivilized tribes we find these beliefs, however distorted by ignorance and superstition.

Babel, a monument of pride, destroyed the unity of language. Unbelief or heresy, the result of pride, destroys the unity of faith.



God called Abraham out of his tent, and said, "Your children and your children's children shall be as numerous as those stars."

10. The Promise to Abraham (1921 B.C.)

AT HARAN, in the midst of a wicked world, there lived a good man named Abram. He was chosen to carry on the knowledge of the true God, Whom others had forgotten.

Therefore God called Abram and said to him, "Abram, leave your country, and go to the Land of Chanaan."

Abram did as God commanded him. He was obedient, although it was hard for him leave his old home and his friends. With his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and his servants and flocks, he went to Chanaan.

To reward him, God made him this promise: "I will give you and your children the land of Chanaan. You shall be the father of a great people. Through you all nations shall be blessed."

From that time on, because God had promised the Land of Chanaan to Abram, it was called "The Promised Land."

God blessed Abram. In the following years He gave him great riches. His flocks increased rapidly. Yet, though Abram was already very old, God had not given him a son. Remembering how God had

promised that he should be the father of a great people, Abram prayed fervently. He asked, "Shall I die without children, shall I have to give all my riches to the son of one of my servants?"

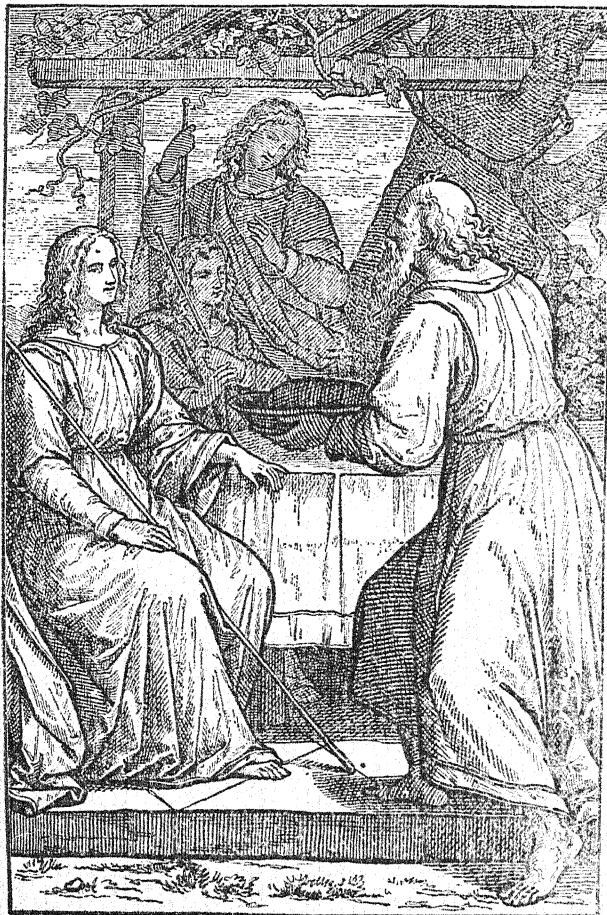
God heard Abram's prayer, and in the night called him out of his tent and said: "Look up, Abram, and try to count the stars in the sky, if you can. Your children and your children's children shall be as numerous as those stars. They shall inherit this land that I promised to you."

Abram believed all that God told him, and waited patiently for a son. One day, God said to him, "Your name from now on shall be Abraham, and not Abram, because you shall be the father of many nations. And your wife's name shall be Sara, and no longer Sarai, because she shall be the mother of princes. For I will fulfill My promise to you, and will give you a son. I will bless him. He shall be the father of kings and nations. You shall name him Isaac."

Because Abraham obeyed whatever the Lord commanded him, God blessed him all his days.



God rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah.



Three strangers, one of whom represented the Lord, came to Abraham's tent.

11. The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha

IN TIME the flocks of Abraham and Lot increased, and quarrels arose between their herdsmen. Abraham loved peace, and therefore suggested that he and Lot separate. Lot went to live in Sodom, while Abraham remained at Hebron.

One day three strangers came to Abraham's tent. He knew at once that one represented the Lord and that the other two were angels. He went with them some distance on their way to Sodom.

God told Abraham that He was about to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrha because their people had committed many impurities.

Abraham was filled with pity for the people. He asked, "Will You destroy the just with the wicked? If there be fifty just men there, will you spare the cities for their sake?"

And the Lord said, "I will."

But Abraham continued interceding for the cities. Finally God promised, "I will not destroy them for the sake of ten just men." Abraham then returned home, but the two angels went on to Sodom.

The two angels went to the house of Lot. He received them gladly. But when the people learned of the arrival of the strangers, many surrounded Lot's house, wishing to do them harm. However, the wicked plan did not work out because the people were miraculously struck with blindness, and could not enter. The angels told Lot of the coming destruction of Sodom, in which there were not even ten just men.

Early the next morning the angels led Lot, his wife, and his two daughters out of the city. The angels warned them not to look back, but to flee the place at once. Out of curiosity, Lot's wife looked back, and was turned into a pillar of salt.

God rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrha. Everything — people, cattle, and houses—was destroyed. The place where the cities were located was turned into a lake, what we now call the Dead Sea. No fishes can live in the sulphurous water of this lake; neither can plants grow on the shore. It is a fearful and lasting proof of God's punishment of sins of impurity.



Abraham was on the point of sacrificing Isaac when an angel called, "Do not kill your son."

12. The Sacrifice of Isaac

ABRAHAM and Sara were at last given a son whom they named Isaac. They loved him all their hearts, because he had been sent as God had promised, to gladden them in their old age.

Abraham loved Isaac so much that God decided to prove whether he did not care more for his son than for his God. To prove Abraham's faith, God one night commanded him, "Take Isaac and go to a mountain that I shall show you. There offer Me your son as a sacrifice."

Abraham's heart was filled with grief. But he had always obeyed God, and he wanted to continue obeying him. Therefore he prepared to do what God asked.

Abraham cut wood for the sacrifice. With two servants and his son, he set out to find the place that God would show him for the sacrifice.

Abraham and his companions traveled for three days until they came to the foot of a mountain, Mount Moriah. Abraham said to his servants, "Remain here with the ass. Isaac and I shall go up the mountain to sacrifice. Wait for our return."

Abraham placed the wood upon the

shoulders of Isaac. He himself carried the fire, and a knife. Then he and Isaac went up the mountain. As they ascended, Isaac inquired, "Father, we have fire and wood. But where is the victim for the sacrifice?"

"God will furnish a victim for the sacrifice," Abraham replied.

Finally they came to the place for the sacrifice. Making an altar, they arranged the wood on it. Then Abraham bound Isaac and laid him upon the wood. With knife upraised, he was on the point of sacrificing Isaac when an angel called, "Abraham, do not kill your son. God knows now that you truly love Him, for you are ready to sacrifice Isaac at His command."

How happy Abraham was! Looking around, he saw a sheep caught by the horns in some bushes. He took the sheep and offered him to God as a sacrifice instead of Isaac his son.

Isaac willingly carrying the wood up Mount Moriah is a figure of Jesus Christ carrying His Cross, as the willing divine Victim about to be offered up in sacrifice upon it.



Eliezer said, "Let me drink from your pitcher." Rebecca answered, "Drink, my lord."

13. Eliezer, the Faithful Servant

ABRAHAM was becoming very old. He wished before his death to see Isaac happily married. Therefore he called his faithful servant Eliezer and said, "Go to the country from where I came, and from among my people bring back a wife for my son Isaac."

In preparation for the journey, Eliezer loaded ten camels with rich gifts. Then he departed for Haran, in Mesopotamia, the place where Abraham had lived before he came to Chanaan.

Upon arriving in Haran, Eliezer made his camels lie down near a well where each evening the women came to draw water. He begged God to let him know which of the women should be Isaac's bride.

Eliezer prayed, "When I say to the one whom You want Isaac to marry, 'Let down your pitcher, that I may drink', please make her answer, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also'. In this way I shall be sure that I have chosen the right wife for Isaac."

Almost before Eliezer had finished praying, a young maiden arrived carrying

a pitcher on her shoulder. She went down to the well and filled her pitcher. She was preparing to return home when Eliezer went near and said to her, "Please let me drink from your pitcher."

The girl replied, "Drink, my lord," at the same time quickly lowering the pitcher upon her arm. Then she hastened to fill it once more, saying, "I will draw water for your camels, that they may also drink."

Upon hearing her answer, Eliezer was filled with great joy. "Whose daughter are you?" he inquired. "Tell me, is there room in your father's house for me to stay tonight?"

The girl answered, "I am Rebecca, daughter of one of Nachor's sons. In our house there is room for you and straw for your camels."

Eliezer bowed down and praised God. Then taking earrings and bracelets, he gave them to Rebecca as gifts.

Rebecca ran home to tell her family about Eliezer, and about all that had taken place at the well.

B5



Rebecca asked, "Who is that man coming to meet us?" Eliezer answered, "He is my master Isaac."

14. Isaac and Rebecca (1858 B.C.)

WHEN Laban, Rebecca's brother, heard what had happened to his sister at the well, he ran out to meet Eliezer. He said, "Come in, thou blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside? I have prepared the house, and a place for your camels."

Laban took Eliezer into his house and brought him some water to wash his feet. Then taking down the packs of the camels, he gave the animals food.

Laban's mother and Rebecca brought food for Eliezer. But Eliezer would not eat till he had spoken of his errand. "I am Abraham's servant," he said.

Then he told them how he had prayed God to show him which girl was to be Isaac's wife, and how God had answered his prayer. When the whole story had been told, Eliezer turned to Laban and inquired, "Tell me, what answer shall I take back to Abraham my master?"

Laban replied, "The answer is in God's hands. It shall be as He wills. Take Rebecca; let her be the wife of Isaac."

Eliezer took the gifts he had brought

and gave them to Rebecca, to her mother, and to Laban. Early the next morning he prepared to return to Chanaan.

Laban and his mother blessed Rebecca. Then taking her nurse with her, Rebecca left with Eliezer for the Land of Chanaan.

In Chanaan Isaac had been waiting for the return of Eliezer. One evening, as he walked in the fields, thinking about the goodness of God, he saw in the distance some camels approaching. He knew then that Eliezer was returning home from Haran.

When Rebecca saw Isaac, she alighted from her camel. "Who is that man who is coming to meet us?" she asked of Eliezer.

Eliezer answered, "He is my master Isaac." And Eliezer told Isaac all that he had done in Haran.

As soon as Isaac saw Rebecca, he loved her. Soon they were married and lived happily with their father Abraham. Abraham gave Isaac his flocks, his lands, and all the other riches with which God had blessed him since he had gone to live in Chanaan.



Isaac said, "The voice is that of Jacob, but the hands are those of Esau."

15. The Brother's Blessing

FOR many years after their marriage Isaac and Rebecca had no children. At last, however, God answered their prayers and gave them two sons, Esau and Jacob.

Esau, the favorite son of Isaac, was the older son. He grew up to be a hunter, and was hairy and strong. Jacob, the favorite of Rebecca, became a shepherd. He stayed home much of the time.

One day, as Jacob was cooking some vegetables, Esau came in tired from a day of hunting. He asked, "Give me some of that pottage, for I am very faint."

"Sell me your birthright," said Jacob, "and I will give you some."

As he was hungry, Esau exclaimed, "What good is my birthright if I die because of my faintness? Let it be done as you wish." In this way Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a mess of pottage.

Now Isaac was grown very old, and his eyes were dim. One day, fearing that he would soon die, he called his favorite son Esau and said, "Go, and when you have taken some game, cook me a dish of it, and bring it, that I may eat. Then I shall bless you before I die."

Esau hurried out to do as Isaac bade. But Rebecca, having heard the words of her husband, called Jacob and told him all that she had heard. She said, "Bring me two young goats from the flock, that I may cook them for your father."

When the meat was cooked, Rebecca dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes, covered his neck and hands with the hairy skins, and sent him with the food to Isaac, to get his brother's blessing. At first Jacob did not wish to go, but finally consented to do as his mother wished.

"Are you Esau?" asked Isaac, touching Jacob's hands. "The voice is that of Jacob, but the hands are those of Esau." Believing it was really Esau, Isaac ate the meat, and then gave Jacob his blessing.

After some time Esau returned, bringing the meat that he had prepared. "Eat of the meat, my father," he said, "and give me your blessing."

Isaac trembled with surprise. "Your brother Jacob has taken away your blessing!" cried he.

The Hebrews, by rejecting Jesus Christ, have like Esau lost the blessing which was their birthright.



Jacob dreamed that he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Up and down the ladder many angels went. At the top stood God.

16. Jacob's Dream

ESAU was full of anger and despair. He cried, "Jacob made me sell him my birthright for a mess of pottage. And now he has taken away my blessing!" Esau was so angry that he swore vengeance against Jacob.

Rebecca saw the anger of Esau, and feared for Jacob. She said, "Jacob, my son, your brother Esau is furious that you have taken away his blessing. I am afraid that he will want to kill you. Go to my brother Laban in Haran, and stay there until Esau's anger has passed. When that time comes, I will send for you, so that you may return."

Isaac, learning of Jacob's plan to go to Haran, called him and blessed him. He told him to find a bride among Laban's daughters.

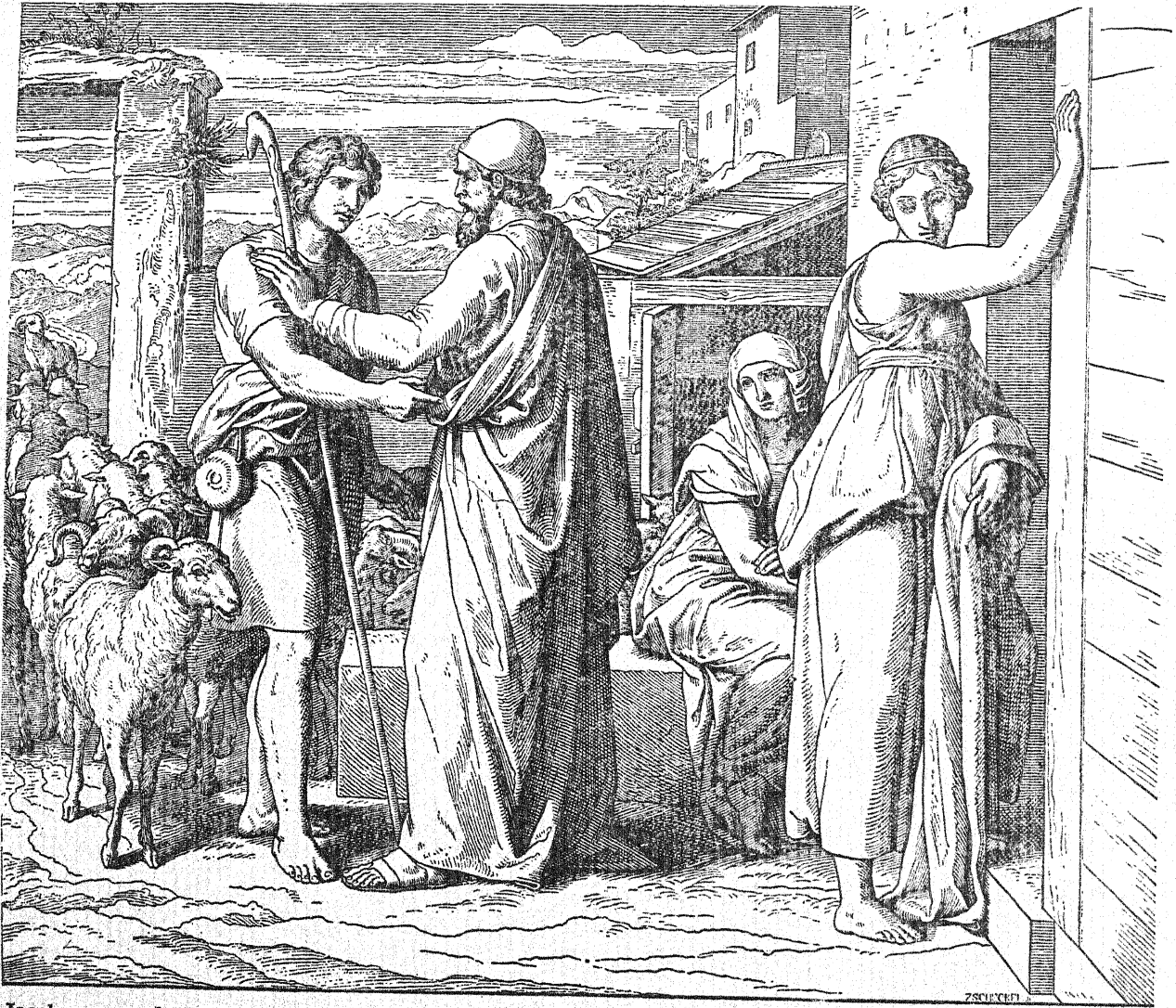
Jacob set out on his journey towards Haran. One night he stopped to rest in an open field. He took a stone and placed it under his head for a pillow.

As Jacob slept he had a strange dream. He thought he saw a tall ladder reaching

from earth to heaven. Up and down the ladder many angels went. At the top God stood. He said to Jacob, "I am the Lord God of Abraham and Isaac. I will give to you and to your children the land where you are now lying. Your children shall be as numberless as the dust of the earth. Through you all the people on earth shall be blessed. I shall be with you wherever you go, to guide you, and to watch over you. I shall bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until all that I have told you is done."

Jacob, upon awakening, said to himself, "Surely God was here, and I did not know it. This is the House of God and the gate of Heaven." And he called that place Bethel, which means House of God. Then he took the stone that he had used for a pillow, poured oil on it, and set it up as a sign.

This stone is a figure of our altars. They are consecrated with holy oil, and on them Christ Himself dwells, acting as intercessor between heaven and earth.



Jacob answered, "I will serve you seven years without wages, if you will let me marry your daughter Rachel."

17. Jacob and Rachel

ON the way to Haran, Jacob came to a well near which flocks of sheep were lying. There was a large stone over the well. When all the flocks were there, the shepherds used to roll away the stone, let the sheep drink, and then put back the stone over the well.

Jacob went up to the shepherds of the flocks, and asked them if they knew Laban. Some of the shepherds replied, "Yes, we know him."

As they spoke, a young girl was seen coming, driving her sheep towards the well. The shepherds said to Jacob, "Here comes Rachel, Laban's daughter, with her father's flocks."

When Jacob saw Rachel, he rolled away the stone that covered the well's mouth, so that her sheep might drink. "I am Jacob, son of Rebecca, your father's sister," he said to her.

Rachel received Jacob gladly. She ran to tell her father the news.

Upon hearing of the arrival of Jacob,

Laban hastened to make him welcome.

Jacob told Laban why he had come to Haran. He asked to be allowed to stay and work for him.

After a month, Laban asked, "What wages do you want for your labor?"

Jacob answered, "I will serve you seven years without wages, if you will let me marry your daughter Rachel."

Laban agreed, saying, "It is better that I should give her to you than to a stranger. Let it be as you wish."

From that time Jacob served Laban faithfully. He loved Rachel, and was glad to work for her.

At last, Laban gave him Rachel for his wife. In this way Jacob found Rachel his wife in the land of his mother's people.

Even after his marriage, Jacob stayed with Laban and worked for him. God blessed Jacob and gave him many riches. In time he owned large flocks. He became so rich that at last Laban became envious, and even tried to cheat Jacob.



The moment Esau saw Jacob, he ran to meet him, and wept. All his anger had ceased.

18. The Return of Jacob

JACOB stayed in Haran twenty years. One night, as he was sleeping, God spoke to him, telling him to return to Chanaan.

So Jacob took all his family, all his flocks, camels, and cattle, and started on his way back to the Land of Chanaan.

As Jacob came near to Chanaan, he remembered why he had left it twenty years before. He remembered the anger of his brother Esau.

Being very much afraid, Jacob sent ahead some messengers with gifts, to ask for him Esau's forgiveness.

When the messengers came back, they announced, "Esau is coming to meet you. He has four hundred men with him."

How afraid Jacob was! He believed that Esau was coming to destroy him and his companions. Falling upon his knees, he prayed God to help him.

That night, as Jacob prayed, a stranger appeared and wrestled with him until dawn. As it was beginning to be light, the stranger said to Jacob, "Let me go, for it is dawn."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go until you bless me."

"What is your name?" asked the stranger.

"It is Jacob," was Jacob's answer.

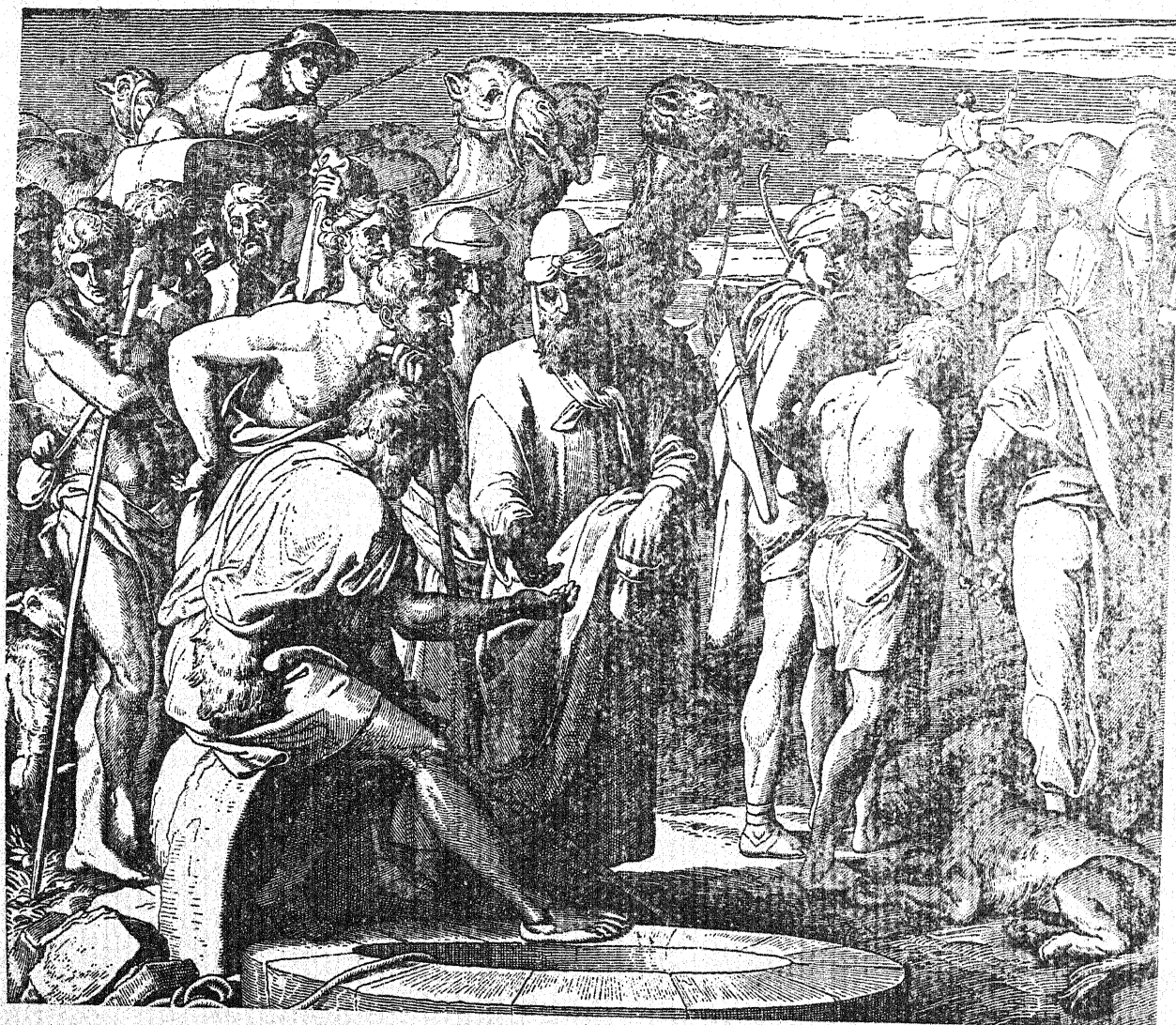
"From now on," said the stranger, "you shall not be called Jacob, but Israel, which means Strength of God." He blessed Jacob, and disappeared.

At last Jacob knew that he had wrestled all night with an angel. He was glad, because he believed he had been given a sign that God would protect him against the anger of Esau.

In the morning Jacob saw Esau coming towards him with four hundred men. The moment Esau saw Jacob, he ran to meet him. Weeping, Esau embraced his brother Jacob. All his anger had disappeared.

Jacob was very happy that his brother had forgiven him, and gave Esau many gifts.

Finally Esau returned to his house. Jacob continued his journey till he arrived at Hebron, where his father Isaac lived.



They drew Joseph out from the pit, and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.

19. The Coat of Many Colors

JACOB had twelve sons, of whom his favorite was Joseph. To show his love for Joseph, Jacob gave him a coat of many colors. This made the other brothers very jealous of Joseph.

When Joseph was sixteen years old, he had two dreams. In one he saw himself and his brothers binding sheaves of corn in a field. As they worked, his sheaf stood upright while his brothers' sheaves stood around and bowed to it. In another dream he saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bow down before him and honor him.

Jacob wondered when he heard about Joseph's dreams. "What," he cried, "shall you rule over us? Shall I and your mother and brothers bow before you?"

One day Jacob sent Joseph to the fields where his brothers were tending the flocks. When they saw him coming in the distance, they said, "Here comes that dreamer. Let us kill him and throw his body into a pit." And so out of jealousy Joseph's brothers planned to kill him.

But Ruben, the oldest, wished to save Joseph's life. He said, "Let us not kill

him. Let us throw him into a deep pit here in the wilderness, but let us not shed his blood."

As soon as Joseph arrived, the brothers took away from him his coat of many colors. They cast him into a deep pit. Then they sat down to eat, all except Ruben, who had gone away.

After a while, some merchants passed by on their way to Egypt. Juda, one of the brothers, said, "What good will it do us to kill our brother? Let us sell him to these merchants instead."

The others agreed. They drew Joseph out of the pit, and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.

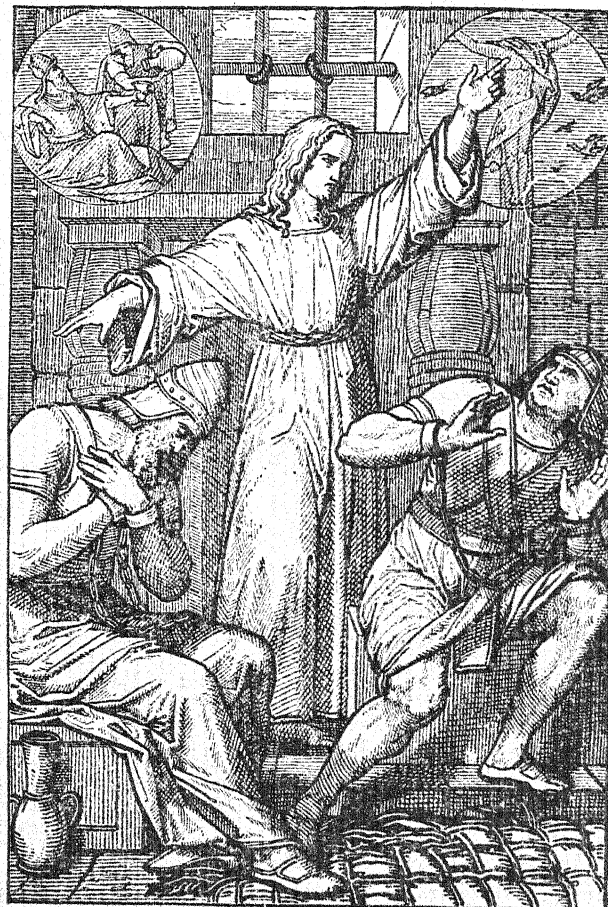
The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in some goat's blood, and took it to Jacob. They asked their father, "Is this Joseph's coat?"

At sight of the bloody coat, Jacob cried aloud, "It is my son's coat. A beast has devoured him!"

Joseph sold by his brothers is a figure of Christ, who was sold by Judas, one of his Apostles, for thirty pieces of silver.



Merchants paid twenty pieces of silver for Joseph.
They then sold him in Egypt to Putiphar.



Joseph said, "With God's help I shall interpret
your dreams."

20. Joseph in Prison

UPON their arrival in Egypt, the merchants who had bought Joseph sold him to Putiphar, a captain in the king's army. Putiphar came to trust Joseph, and made him chief servant in his house.

One day Putiphar's wife became very angry and told her husband a wicked lie about Joseph. Putiphar believed her, and sent Joseph to prison.

The chief keeper soon grew to trust Joseph. He gave him charge of all the other prisoners, among whom were the chief butler and the chief baker of the king.

One morning Joseph saw the two servants of the king very sad. When he asked them the reason, they answered, "We have each dreamed a dream, but there is no one to tell us the meaning."

"With God's help, I shall explain your dreams," replied Joseph.

The butler had dreamed of a vine on which were three branches. Little by little ripe grapes grew on the branches. He took the grapes and pressed them into the king's cup that he held in his hands. Then he gave the cup to the king.

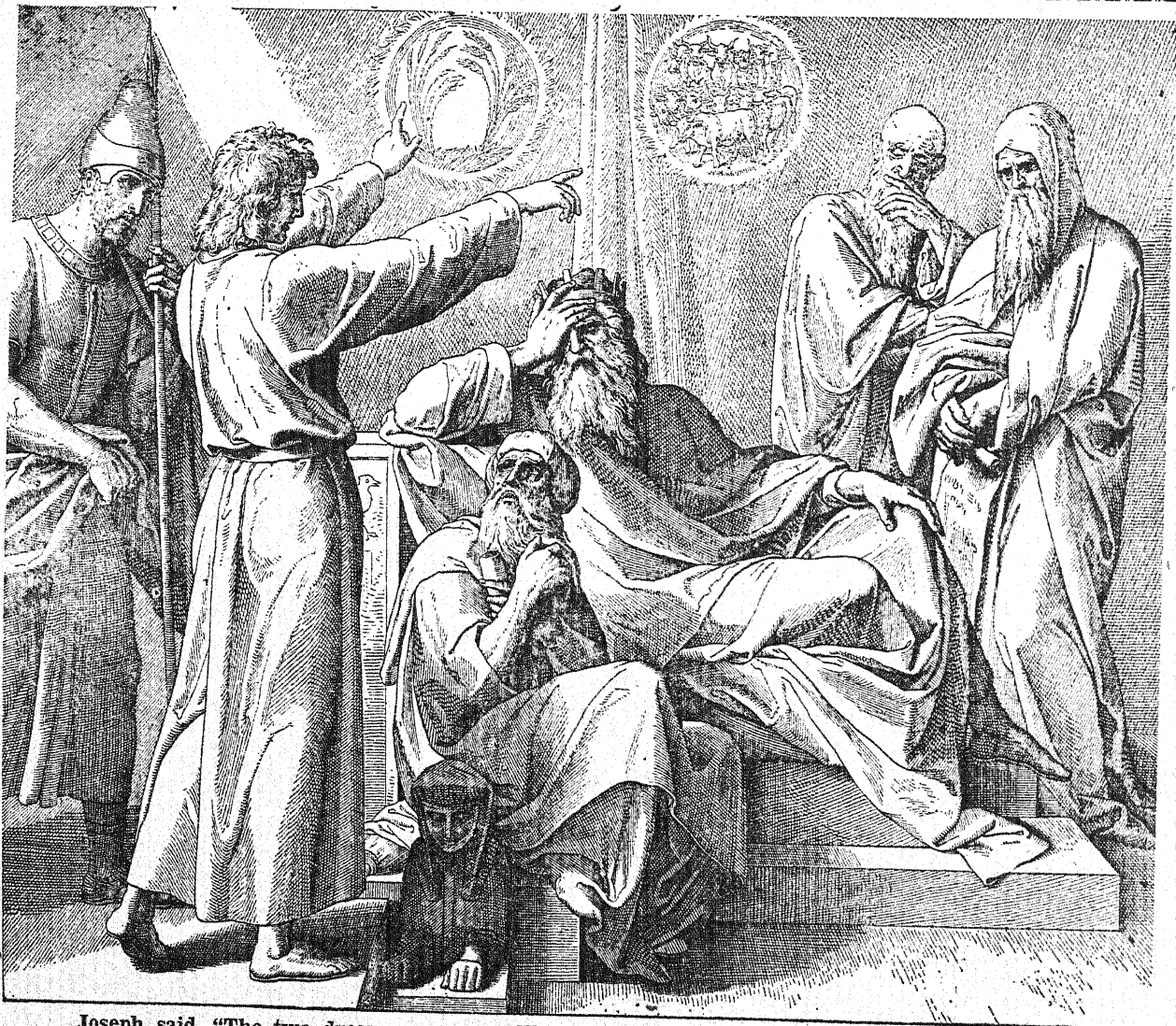
Joseph explained: "The three branches are three days. Within three days the king will forgive you. He will take you back into his service. Do not forget to help me out of prison when you are free." The butler gladly promised to help Joseph when he should again be with the king.

The baker had dreamed that he carried three baskets on his head. The topmost basket contained all kinds of pastry. The birds of the air came to eat out of it.

Joseph explained, "The three baskets are three days. Within three days you will be hanged. The birds of the air will eat your flesh."

On the third day everything happened as Joseph had predicted. The chief butler was taken back into the king's service, while the chief baker was hanged. But the chief butler forgot his promise to help Joseph out of prison.

Joseph in prison, with two offenders, one of whom is restored to favor and the other perishes, is a figure of Jesus on the Cross between two thieves, one of whom receives the promise of eternal life.



Joseph said, "The two dreams are one. There will come seven years of plenty over Egypt.
Then will come seven years of famine."

21. The King's Dream (1715 B.C.)

TWO years later the king of Egypt had two very strange dreams. He dreamed that he was standing near a river when out of it came seven fat and beautiful cows. As they grazed in a meadow, out of the river came seven lean and ugly cows. These lean cows ate up the fat cows.

The king was frightened because of his dream, and woke up. But when he slept again, he dreamed that seven full and good ears of corn grew upon one stalk. Then seven thin and withered ears grew upon the same stalk. And the seven thin ears ate up the seven good ears.

The king was greatly troubled. He sent for all the wise men in Egypt to explain his dreams, but nobody could tell him their meaning.

At last the chief butler remembered Joseph and said, "When the chief baker and I were in prison, we had strange dreams. A young Israelite in prison explained them. And everything happened as he said."

The king sent for Joseph, who was hurriedly taken from prison. The king

then said to Joseph, "I have heard that you can tell the meaning of dreams. Can you explain mine?"

Joseph replied, "God will help me explain the king's dreams."

And so the king told all that he had dreamed about the cows and the ears of corn.

Joseph said, "The two dreams are one. God has showed the king what He is about to do. The seven fat cows are seven years of plenty. The seven good ears of corn are those same seven years of plenty. The seven lean cows are seven years of famine. The seven thin ears are those same seven years of famine.

"The dreams mean the same and are one. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout Egypt. After these seven years of plenty will come seven years of famine. Let the king choose a wise man to rule over Egypt. Let this ruler gather corn during the years of plenty, so that the people may have food during the seven years of famine."



Wherever Joseph went, a soldier walked before his chariot, crying, "Bow the knee, for Joseph, governor of Egypt, comes!"

22. Joseph as Governor of Egypt

THE king heard all that Joseph said, and was pleased. He said to his servants, "Can we find another man as full of the spirit of God?" And to Joseph he said, "Is there any man wiser than you are? God has showed you all these things. You shall be ruler of Egypt, and all shall acknowledge you. No one shall be above you except me, who am the king."

Removing his ring, the king put it on Joseph's finger as a sign of authority, that all might obey him. The king also gave him one of his chariots. Wherever Joseph went, a soldier walked before his chariot, crying aloud, "Bow the knee, because Joseph, who is made the governor of Egypt, is coming!"

Joseph preferred to go to prison rather than offend God. Even in this life God rewarded him with wealth and honor.

Soon the seven years of plenty arrived. All over Egypt there were rich harvests. The earth yielded its products abundantly. Every one had more than he needed.

Joseph commanded the people to store

away as much grain as they could. He built great storehouses, where he gathered in the grain that was as plentiful as the sands of the sea. At the end of the seven years of plenty, Joseph had filled very many storehouses to overflowing.

The years of plenty passed, and the seven years of famine that Joseph had foretold began. Such a famine had never been seen before. It was only in Egypt that there was food.

When the famine began, and the Egyptians had eaten up all their grain, the people cried out to the king to feed them, or they would all die of hunger. The king said to them, "Go to Joseph. Do whatever he commands."

Joseph ordered the great storehouses to be opened one by one. Grain was sold to the people. No one died of hunger in Egypt, because Joseph had wisely stored up grain during the plentiful years.

Soon other lands heard about the food in Egypt. From far and near people came to buy grain of Joseph.



Joseph wept and said, "I am your brother!"

23. Joseph and His Brothers in Egypt (1706 B.C.)

IN CHANAAN there was great suffering because of the famine. One day Jacob sent his ten oldest sons to buy corn in Egypt. He kept only his youngest, Benjamin, whom he loved best, with him.

As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he knew them; but they did not recognize him. He pretended to believe them spies, and cast one of them, Simeon, into prison. Then he gave them as much corn as they could carry, saying, "Bring Benjamin to see me, and I will set Simeon free."

When Jacob learned from his sons what Joseph wanted, he was sad for fear some harm would befall Benjamin. He refused to let the little boy go.

Soon the corn that the brothers had brought was gone. Jacob told his sons to buy some more. But they said, "We cannot, unless you let Benjamin go with us, or Joseph will not sell us corn."

Juda, one of the brothers, promised to bring back Benjamin. Finally Jacob agreed to let his youngest son go, and the brothers set out for Egypt.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he wept for joy. He prepared a banquet for his

brothers. He ordered that their sacks should be filled with corn.

At last the brothers started back for Chanaan. They had not gone far when a servant of Joseph's overtook them. "You have stolen my master's silver cup," said he.

To prove their innocence, the brothers asked to be searched. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Ashamed and bewildered, they returned to Joseph's house.

Now Joseph had ordered a servant to put the cup secretly in Benjamin's sack. When his brothers returned, he said, "Let Benjamin, in whose sack my cup was found, remain as my servant. The rest of you may return to your father's house."

Juda cried, "Take me as your servant! What shall I say to my father if Benjamin does not return? Jacob will die of grief."

Joseph could no longer restrain himself. Weeping before them, he said, "I am Joseph your brother!"

Joseph pardoning his brothers who had sold him into Egypt is a figure of Jesus Christ forgiving our sins if we repent and make a humble confession.



Jacob cried out, "Now I shall die with joy, for I have seen your face!"

24. Jacob in Egypt

JOSEPH prepared gifts for his brothers to take back to Jacob. He also sent wagons full of food. He told them to return to Chanaan to bring back Jacob and all their families and goods to Egypt.

When his sons told Jacob that Joseph was alive, he could not believe the news. But when he saw the gifts and wagons, he exclaimed, "Joseph really lives! I will go and see him before I die."

Soon they set out for Egypt. One night, as Jacob slept, God said to him, "Fear not. Go to Egypt. There I will make of you a great nation. And I will surely bring you back to Chanaan."

In order to let Joseph know of their arrival, Juda went ahead of the rest. Joseph, riding in his chariot, went to meet Jacob in Gessen. Upon seeing his father, he embraced him and wept with joy. In his happiness Jacob cried out, "Now I shall die with joy, for I have seen your face, and know that you are alive!"

With the king's consent, Joseph gave his father and his brothers rich land in

Gessen, where they were to live and pasture their flocks. He gave the king's cattle in their charge. He presented Jacob to the king, whom Jacob blessed.

The Israelites lived in Gessen seventeen years. Jacob died there when he was one hundred forty-seven years old. Before his death he charged Joseph to bury him with Abraham and Isaac back in Chanaan. Then he called his twelve sons, and gave each one a blessing.

To Juda he gave the greatest blessing, saying: "You shall rule over your enemies. The sons of your father shall bow down before you. The sceptre shall not be taken away from Juda till He come that is to be sent, and He shall be the Expectation of Nations."

This prophecy, which clearly foretold the time when the Messias would come, was accomplished when Herod, the first foreigner, ruled over Judea. In Herod the sceptre passed from Juda.

And then Jesus Christ was born, as it had been foretold.



Job suffered many misfortunes. But he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away."

25. The Trials of Job

DURING the time of Joseph, there lived in the land of Hus, in Arabia, a man called Job, an upright man, who loved God and avoided sin. He had seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred oxen and five hundred asses, as well as many other riches.

One day God wished to prove the goodness of Job. God spoke to Satan, saying, "Have you seen My servant Job? There is none like him on earth, a perfect and upright man, fearing God and avoiding evil."

Satan replied that it was easy for Job to be good, because he was rich.

God answered Satan, "You can do what you will to Job's possessions, but do not hurt his body. You shall see how he will remain faithful to Me in spite of what you do to him."

Soon after, a messenger arrived before Job, to tell him that the Sabeans had taken his oxen and asses, and had slain all his servants. Almost at the same moment another messenger arrived to announce that all Job's sheep and shepherds had been

struck by lightning. A third messenger came to say that the Chaldeans had taken Job's camels and slain those who took care of them.

At last a fourth messenger arrived. He brought the worst news of all. He announced, "As your sons and daughters were eating and drinking, there came a strong wind from the desert. It shook the whole house. The house fell and killed all your sons and daughters. I alone escaped to tell you."

When he heard all the misfortunes that had happened, Job was filled with great sorrow. But he did not sin by blaming God, nor by feeling discontented.

Instead, Job fell upon his face, and adored God. He exclaimed, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away! Blessed be the Name of the Lord!" God was very much pleased with Job, because of his faith and love.

Job is a figure of Jesus Christ Who endured sorrow and agony, but did not complain. From Job's story we also learn how far sometimes God permits the devil to exercise his power.

B5



God delivered Job from his sufferings and rewarded his faith and patience.

26. The Reward of Patience

ONE day Satan appeared before God and said, "Job is faithful to You because I cannot hurt his body. If You let me touch his person, he will curse You, and will no longer be patient."

So God allowed Satan to hurt Job's body, telling him only to spare his life. Satan caused sores to break out all over the body of Job, from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

Job did not complain. With a piece of broken pottery, he scraped his sores as he sat among the ashes. His wife angrily said, "Are you still patient?"

"You talk like a foolish woman," replied Job. "If we have received good things from the hands of God, why should we not receive evil?"

Three of Job's friends arrived to visit him. They were very sorry, and stayed seven days without saying a word, because they knew how much Job suffered.

After seven days, Job began speaking of his sorrows. They said that his trials must be a punishment for his sins. But he answered that he had done no wrong.

Job said, "Although He should kill me, I will trust in Him. He shall be my Saviour. For I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the last day I shall rise out of the earth, and in my flesh I shall see my God. He knows my way, and has tried me as gold that passes through the fire. My foot has followed His steps; I have kept His way. I have not departed from the commandments of his lips."

Job loved God so much that he was granted the gift of prophecy. He spoke of God as if he had been talking with Him.

God was much pleased with the patience of Job. He took pity on him, and delivered him from his sufferings. He gave him twice the amount of riches that he had before. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand oxen, and one thousand asses. God also gave him seven sons and three daughters. Job lived happily till he was one hundred and forty years old.

Even in this life, and always in Heaven, God rewards those who are faithful to Him.

B5



The princess took pity on the baby and saved him. She said, "This is one of the Israelite children."

27. The Rescue of Moses (1571 B.C.)

AFTER the death of Jacob, his descendants lived many years in Egypt. They became very rich because they worked hard and long. Their number increased rapidly till finally they spread all over the land. Everywhere they went, they were called "Children of Israel", or "Israelites", because Jacob's name was Israel.

After many years a new king ruled Egypt. He was afraid of the Israelites because of their number and industry. He said to the Egyptians, "Let us be harsh with the Israelites, so that they may not increase. For they may become our enemies, and rule over us."

In spite of the cruel treatment, however, the Israelites continued to increase in number. At last the king ordered that every baby boy born of the Israelites should be cast into the river to die.

At this time, a baby boy was born to an Israelite woman of the tribe of Levi. For three months she hid the child in her home. When it was no longer possible to hide him, she wove a basket of grasses. She covered the

basket with mud and pitch, so that the water would not get in. Putting the baby in the basket, she laid it among the reeds near the river bank. To her daughter she said, "Miriam, stand near. See what happens to the baby."

After a while the king's daughter came to bathe in the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and ordered one of her maids to fetch it.

When the basket was opened, the princess saw the baby, who was crying. She took pity on the child and decided to save him. "This is one the Israelite children," she said.

Miriam saw all that had taken place. Running forward, she asked the princess, "Shall I get an Israelite woman to nurse the baby?"

The princess consented, and Miriam hurried to fetch her mother.

"Take the child," the princess said to the mother. "Nurse it for me. I will pay you wages." The mother gladly took the baby home. She nursed it until it was grown up. This child was Moses.



Angered by an Egyptian that had struck an Israelite, Moses killed the Egyptian.

28. The Flight of Moses (1531 B.C.)

WHEN Moses was grown up, his mother gave him back to the king's daughter. The princess took him to live with her in the palace, and loved him as her own son.

"I will call him Moses," she decided, "for I drew him out of the water."

The lad grew up to be strong and good. Although he lived like a prince in the palace, he was not happy, because he was troubled by the sufferings of his people, the Israelites.

Moses was sorry for his people, whom the Egyptians treated cruelly. All kinds of burdens were laid on them. The Israelites had to do much heavy work, such as digging, and carrying great stones for the structures that the Egyptians built.

Day and night the Israelites had to work. They did not rest, however tired they might be, until their Egyptian masters gave them permission. Moses suffered to see his people placed under such cruel masters.

One day Moses saw an Egyptian strike one of the Israelite laborers. How angry

Moses was! In his anger he struck down the Egyptian and killed him.

The king learned what Moses had done, and decided to put him to death. Afraid of the king's anger, Moses fled to a country called Madian.

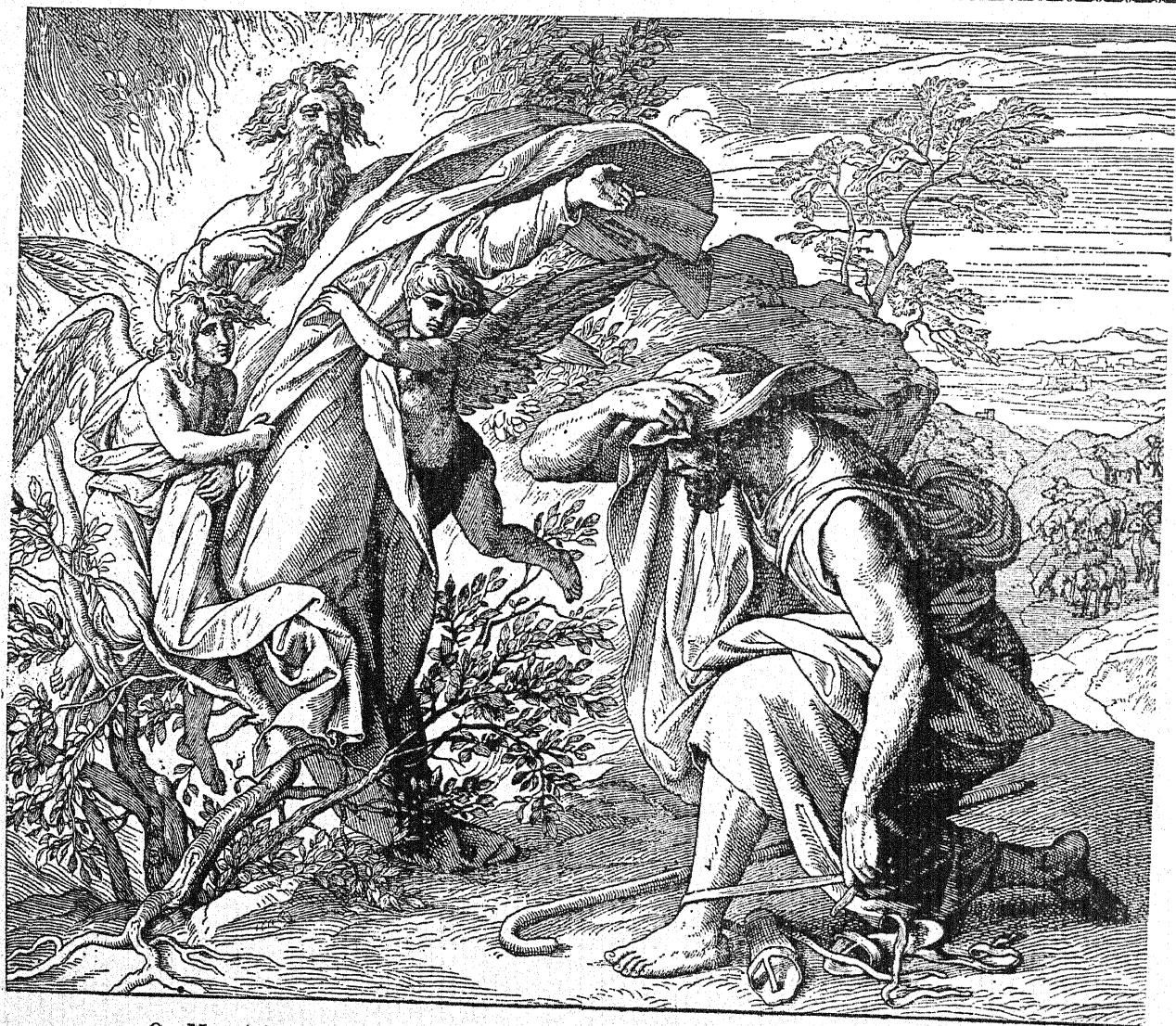
One day Moses sat beside a well to rest. The seven daughters of a man called Jethro arrived to give their flocks drink. After a while some shepherds came, and began pushing the girls aside.

Moses was angry at the rude shepherds and drove them away. Then drawing water, he helped the girls give their sheep drink.

When the daughters of Jethro arrived home, they told their father all that had happened at the well.

"Where is this good man?" asked Jethro. "Call him, that I may show him my gratitude."

Jethro made Moses welcome in his house. Later on, Moses married one of Jethro's daughters, and took care of Jethro's flocks. He lived in Madian for forty years.



On Mount Horeb Moses saw fire appear from a bush, but it was not consumed.
From the burning bush God spoke to Moses.

29. The Burning Bush

ONE DAY Moses led his flock to graze near Mount Horeb. There he saw a wonderful sight. Fire appeared from a bush, and the bush burned brilliantly, but it was not consumed. From the burning bush God spoke to Moses.

"I have heard the prayers of the children of Israel. I have seen how they suffer at the hands of the Egyptians," God said. "I will deliver them from their masters, and take them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Go, therefore, to the king of Egypt, and ask him to let the Israelites go to the desert to offer sacrifice."

"But who am I," objected Moses, "that the king and the Israelites should believe me when I tell them that You have sent me?"

So God gave Moses signs by which he could convince the children of Israel. God bade him cast his rod upon the ground. The rod turned to a serpent. When God commanded him to take it up, it became a rod once more.

Then God said, "If they will not yet believe, take water out of the river, pour it

out upon the dry land, and the water shall be turned into blood."

"By those signs," God said, "the Israelites will believe that I have sent you."

Still Moses was unwilling. He told God that he was slow of speech.

God became angry at Moses, and said, "Who made man's mouth? Or who made the dumb and the deaf, the seeing and the blind? Go, I will be with you to teach you what to say. Take your brother Aaron to speak for you."

Moses bade Jethro goodbye, and set out with his wife and children for Egypt. On the way they were met by Aaron, to whom Moses told all that God had commanded him at Mount Horeb.

Upon their arrival in Egypt, Moses and Aaron called the Israelites. Aaron gave them God's message. Moses showed them the wonderful signs. The Israelites believed, and were happy.

To thank God for having sent Moses to deliver them from slavery, the Israelites fell down on their knees and worshipped God.



Aaron cast his rod down before the king. Immediately it became a serpent.

30. The Punishment of Egypt

Moses and Aaron went to ask the king of Egypt, in the name of the Lord, to let the Israelites go to sacrifice in the desert.

The king answered, "Who is the Lord, that I should hear His voice? I do not know Him. I will not let the Israelites go." Then he ordered his servants to give the Israelites more work, so that they might not have time to think of offering sacrifices.

"Let them make the same number of bricks they have been making," he said, "but let them find their own straw. Do not give them any straw for the bricks."

When the Israelites were given harder work, they blamed Moses and Aaron for their troubles. Moses said to God, "Why do You allow the people to suffer so much? Since I came, the king has treated them more harshly than before. Why have You sent me?"

God answered Moses, "You shall see what I shall do to the king. Go to the Israelites and tell them that I shall free them from their slavery." But the Israelites would no longer listen to Moses.

Moses and Aaron again went to the king. They asked him to let the Israelites go. To prove that they came at God's command, Aaron cast his rod down before the king. Immediately it became a serpent.

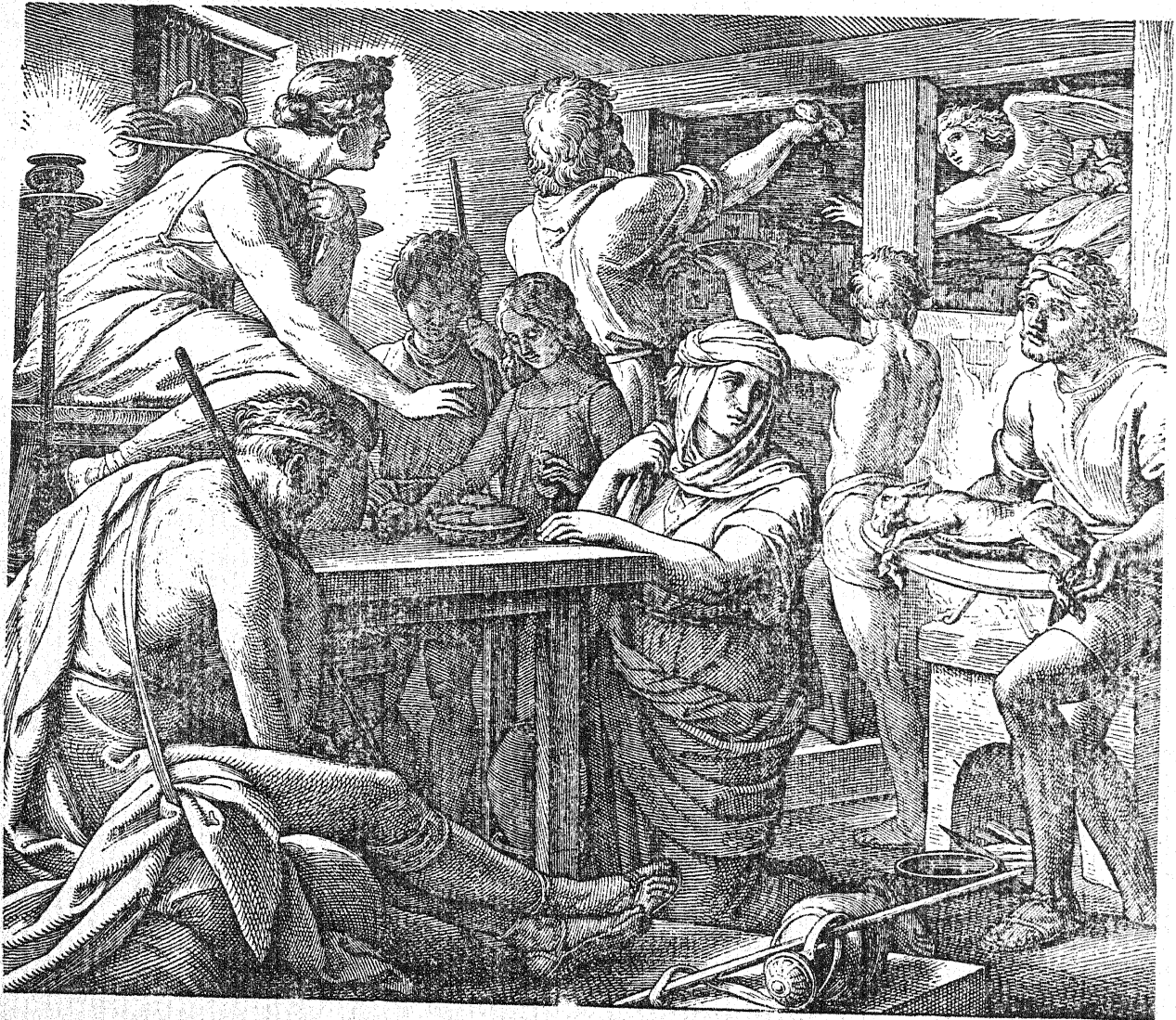
The king called his magicians. The magicians cast their rods down, and their rods turned into serpents also. But Aaron's rod ate up all the other rods. Nevertheless the king refused to let the Israelites go.

And so God punished the land of Egypt. Every time that the king refused the request of Moses, God sent the Egyptians a new affliction. In all He sent ten plagues.

First, the water in the river turned to blood. Second, frogs in great numbers filled the land. Third, the dust was changed into small insects so numerous that they covered everything. Fourth, came a pest of flies. Fifth, an epidemic killed all the cattle. Sixth, boils broke out on man and beast. Seventh, hail and lightning fell. Eighth, locusts ate up what the hail had left. Ninth, darkness covered Egypt.

Still the king refused to let the Children of Israel go. So God sent the tenth plague.

B5



The Angel of Death spared the Israelites when he saw the blood of the lamb on their doorposts.

31. The First Pasch (1491 B.C.)

IN SPITE of all that God had sent to punish Egypt, the king was hard-hearted, and would not let the Israelites go.

Therefore God said to Moses, "I will send one more plague upon the Egyptians. Then the king will let you go."

"Let each family kill a young lamb and sprinkle the doorposts of the house with its blood. Let the lamb be roasted, and eaten at night with unleavened bread and bitter herbs," Moses directed the children of Israel. "For the Angel of Death will pass through the land to destroy all the first-born of the Egyptians. When he sees the blood on your doorposts, he will pass on. He will not punish you or your children." This was the first Pasch.

The Israelites did as Moses bade them. At midnight the Angel of Death passed through Egypt, destroying all the first-born—from the first-born of the king to the first-born of the poorest Egyptian—and taking also the first-born of all animals. In every Egyptian house there was sorrow and weeping, because of the death of all the first-born.

Among the Israelites no one died. The Angel of Death spared them when he saw the blood of the lamb on their doorposts.

In despair and fear, the king sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Go," said he. "Take your flocks and your people. Leave Egypt. Go and serve your God, for if you do not, we shall all die."

The Egyptian people also urged the Israelites to go, saying, "If you do not hasten, we shall all be dead men." They even gave the Israelites jewels and precious ornaments, crying to them, "Take everything and go, that we may live."

The lamb that the Israelites killed for the first Pasch is a figure of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the blood of the Paschal lamb saved the Israelites from the Angel of Death, so the Blood of our Lord saves our souls from death through sin. The Israelites celebrated the Feast of the Pasch (Easter) in memory of their liberation from their slavery in Egypt. Today Christians celebrate the Feast of Easter (Pasch) in memory of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Who freed us from the slavery of sin.



Moses stretched his hands over the Red Sea once more. The waters were united.

32. Miraculous Passage Through the Red Sea

Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt. They were about 600,000 men, besides women and children. They took along all their flocks and herds. They also took with them the bones of Joseph. And with all their goods they set out for the Promised Land.

God guided them during the journey. He went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. They could march, because of the light, by night as well as by day. The pillar of cloud and fire is a figure of Jesus Christ, Who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

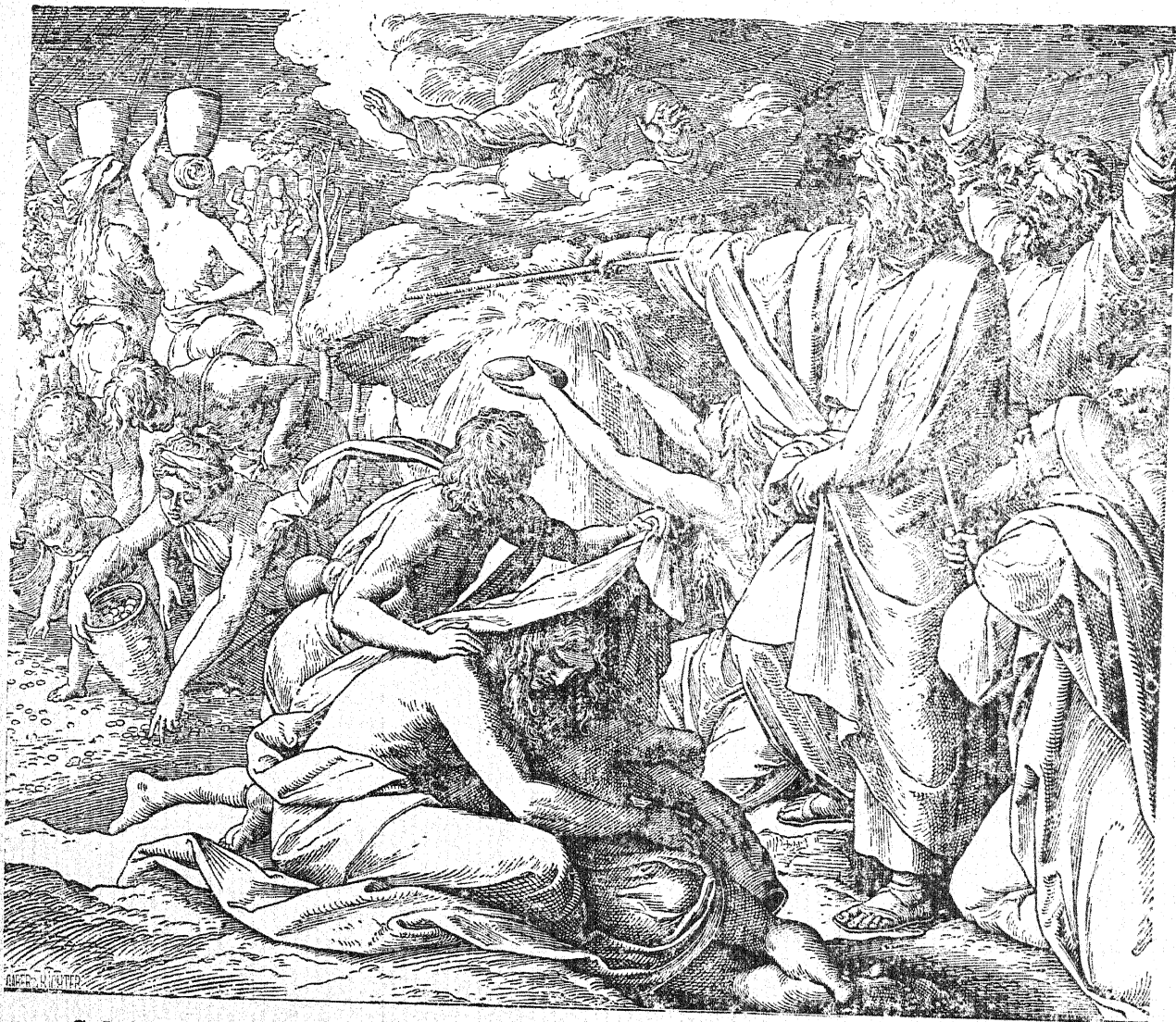
As soon as the Israelites had left, the king was sorry that he had let them go. He had lost the best workers in the land. And so he prepared an army to pursue the Israelites and bring them back.

The Children of Israel had stopped to rest on the shores of the Red Sea. When they saw the king's army, they were afraid. They blamed Moses, crying to him, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this desert?" But Moses answered, "God will protect us. Do not fear."

The pillar of cloud that had gone before the Israelites to show them the way went behind them, hiding them from the Egyptians. Then, in obedience to God's command, Moses stretched his hands over the Red Sea. Immediately the waters were divided, and rolled back on both sides.

The Israelites passed over dry land across the Red Sea to the other side. The Egyptian army followed them. But as soon as the Israelites were safe on shore, Moses stretched forth his hand once more. The waters were united and flowed together as before. All the king's chariots, and horses, and soldiers were drowned in the sea. Nothing of the Egyptians was left on the shore.

The Children of Israel saw everything that happened to the Egyptians. They knew then that God was protecting them from their enemies. They knew that He had led them out of the land of bondage. With Moses and Aaron, the children of Israel rejoiced and sang hymns of praise to show their gratitude to God for all His goodness to them.



God sent the Israelites manna for forty years in the wilderness, till they came to Chanaan.

33. Manna in the Wilderness

AFTER crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites came to a desert. Through it they wandered three days. They became very thirsty, for there was no water anywhere.

At last the Israelites arrived at Mara. But here the water was so bitter that they could not drink. They blamed Moses angrily for their hardships. "What shall we drink?" they asked him.

Moses pray to God, Who showed him a tree. "If you cast the tree into the water, the people can drink, for the water will become sweet," God said.

Moses took the tree and threw it into the bitter water of Mara. Immediately the water turned sweet, and the Children of Israel could drink.

After some time the Israelites had no more food. They had eaten up all the food they had brought out of Egypt. Again they murmured against Moses, "Why did we leave Egypt? It would have been better if we had stayed, for there we could eat. Here we shall all die of hunger."

Then God spoke to Moses, "Tell the people that I will send them meat in the evening and bread in the morning. Then

they may eat, and know that I am watching over them."

That evening many birds came. The people caught them and ate. In the morning the ground was covered with small white seeds. The Israelites called these seeds *manna*, and gathered them for food.

Moses said, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. Gather as much as you need for the day."

The Israelites obeyed. What was left on the ground melted when the sun arose.

On the sixth day Moses said, "Gather today enough to last you two days. Tomorrow, the seventh day, is holy, and you cannot gather manna." On that day manna did not fall. In this way God showed that His day must be kept holy.

God sent the Israelites manna for forty years in the wilderness, until they reached the borders of Chanaan.

Manna was a type of the Eucharistic Bread, the Body and Blood of Our Lord, which comes from heaven to feed our souls during the time of our mortal pilgrimage till we come at last to our eternal home, Heaven, the true land of promise.



On Mount Sinai God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

34. The Ten Commandments

IN THE third month after the Children of Israel had left Egypt, they arrived near Mount Sinai, and encamped at the foot of the mountain.

God called Moses and said to him, "Go and prepare the people. On the third day I will appear before them."

In the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning. A thick cloud appeared on the mountain. A trumpet sounded loudly.

The Israelites trembled with fear. Moses brought them out of their camp to the foot of Mount Sinai, which shook violently and smoked like a furnace. The trumpet blew louder and louder. Then God began to speak from the cloud.

The fear of the Israelites increased. Drawing back from the mountain, they begged Moses, "Let not God speak to us, lest we die."

"Do not be afraid," said Moses. "God shows Himself to you in order that you may fear Him. Then you will not fall into sin."

Moses then went up Mount Sinai to speak with God.

On Mount Sinai God spoke and said:

"I am the Lord thy God, Who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"Thou shalt not have strange gods before me.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

"Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

"Honor thy father and thy mother.

"Thou shalt not kill.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery.

"Thou shalt not steal.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods."

These are what we today call the Ten Commandments.

From that time every year the Israelites celebrated the Feast of Pentecost in memory of the descent of God on Mount Sinai. We Christians celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in honor of the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles.



When Moses saw the golden calf, he became angry and threw down the tablets.

35. The Golden Calf

GOD again called Moses to Mount Sinai. For forty days and forty nights Moses stayed there, listening to the words of God. Finally God gave him two stone tablets on which were written the Ten Commandments.

Meanwhile the Israelites had become tired waiting for Moses. They went to Aaron and said, "Make us gods to worship. Moses does not return. We do not know what has happened to him."

"Bring me all the gold ornaments of your wives and daughters," said Aaron.

When the ornaments were brought, he melted them and then formed a golden calf. The people said: "Here is your god, O Israel."

The Israelites worshipped the golden calf and sacrificed before it. On the mount, God said to Moses, "Go down, for the people are sinning against Me. They have turned from the ways I taught, and are worshipping a golden calf. I will destroy them, because they are ungrateful." But Moses prayed God to spare the people.

Then, carrying the two tables of stone,

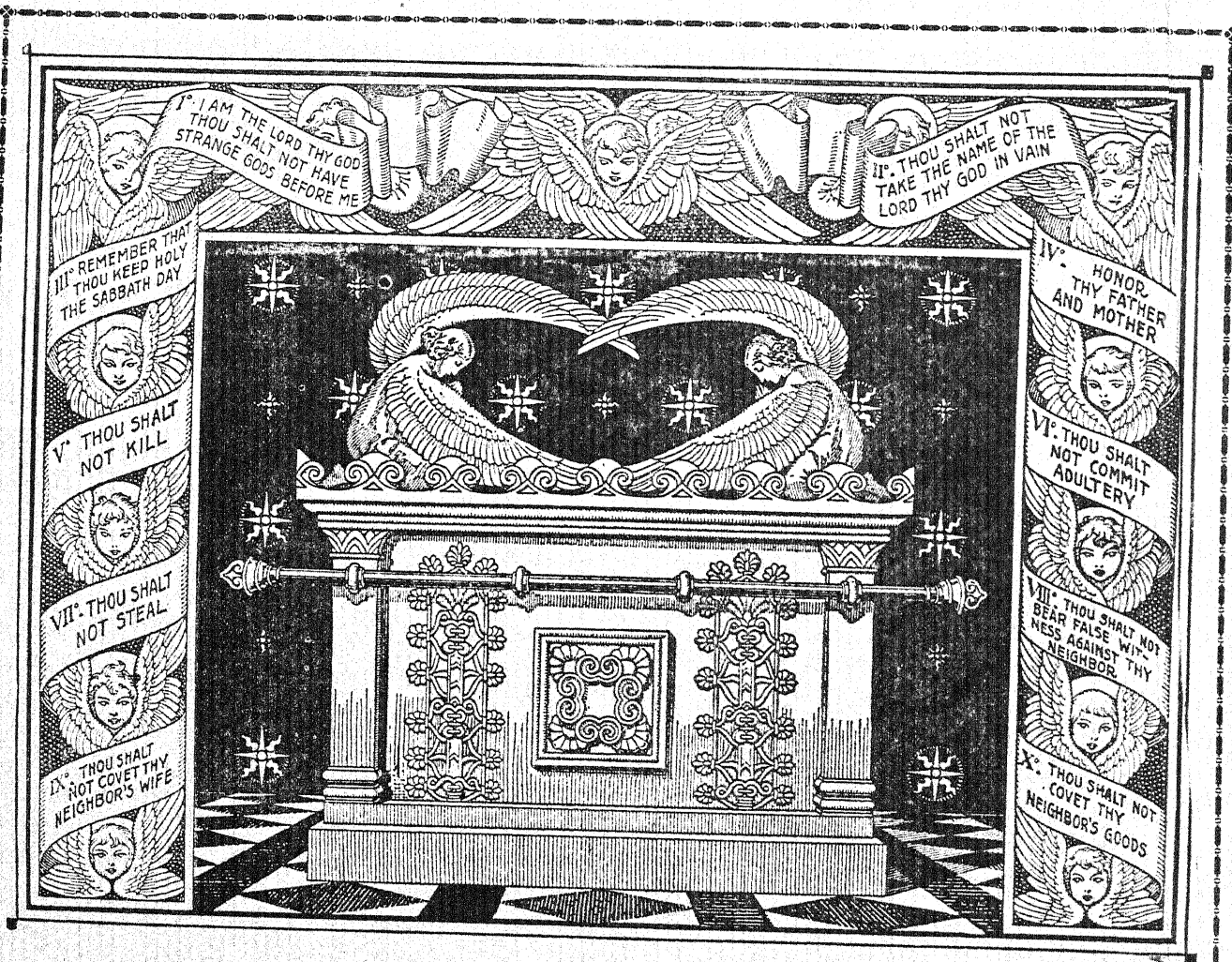
Moses descended Mount Sinai. As he came near the camp, he saw the golden calf. The people were dancing before it.

In his anger Moses threw down the two slabs of stone, breaking them into thousands of pieces. He took the golden calf and flung it into the fire. The people were sorry for their sins and did penance.

Again Moses went up to Mount Sinai, to pray for the people. God told Moses to make two tables of stone like the ones he had broken. On them Moses wrote the Ten Commandments.

God told Moses to have a beautiful box made, lined and covered with gold. On the cover were to be placed the golden images of two angels. This was to be the Ark of the Covenant. Inside this box the two tables of Law were to be kept. A linen tent embroidered in beautiful colors was to be made to house the Ark of the Covenant. This tent was the Tabernacle.

The Israelites made all these things, as God had ordered. The Tabernacle became the center of God's worship until the Temple of Solomon was built.



The Holy of Holies, a part of the Tabernacle, housed the Ark of the Covenant.

36. The Tabernacle and Sacrifices

MOSES was with God in the mountain for forty days and nights. When he went down, his face was radiant from his talk with God, and sent forth rays like horns. The Israelites could not look upon him, so that Moses had to cover his face with a veil.

Moses at once built the Tabernacle, which was divided into two parts: the Holy of Holies, and the Sanctuary. The Holy of Holies housed the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Tables of Law.

In the Sanctuary were the Show Bread, the seven-branched candlestick, and the Altar of Incense. The altar of holocausts, upon which the sacrifices were offered in sight of the people, and the brazen basin in which the priests purified themselves before any sacred ceremony, were in the portico surrounding the Tabernacle.

The Ark was a figure of the tabernacle in Catholic churches; the Holy of Holies, of the altar on which Mass is said; the Sanctuary, of the place occupied by our priests; and the portico, of the body of the church, where the people now worship.

The Show Bread, consisting of twelve loaves, was a figure of the Blessed Eucharist, daily offered to God in thanksgiving for all His graces. The seven-branched

candlestick symbolized the Holy Ghost and His seven gifts in the Church.

The sacrifices of the Old Law were either bloody, in which were offered animals; or unbloody, in which were offered cakes and unleavened bread and wine. The bloody sacrifices prefigured the bloody sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross; the unbloody were a type of the Sacrifice of the Mass. The sacrifices of the Old Law ceased with the Sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. Today we have only one true Sacrifice: Holy Mass.

The chief religious feasts were: the Pasch or Passover, in memory of the deliverance out of Egypt; Pentecost, in remembrance of the Law received from Mount Sinai; the Tabernacles, to commemorate the wanderings in the desert; and the Expiation, in which the priest sacrificed for his own and his people's sins.

God also gave rules about the priesthood. The order of ministers was: the highpriest, the priests, and the Levites.

By God's command, the people were to support the priests and Levites serving at the altar. In the same way, we have that obligation to support the priests of our Church.



the twelve spies returned, they carried an enormous cluster of grapes as well as other fruits.

37. The Twelve Spies

A YEAR after the Israelites had camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, Moses led them towards Chanaan. To guide them, God sent a cloud to go before them.

One day God told Moses to send men to look over the land of Chanaan which He had promised the Israelites. Moses chose one man from each of the twelve tribes into which the Children of Israel were divided.

To the twelve men Moses said, "Go and see what sort of land it is. See what people are living there now. Find out whether the land is good or bad."

The twelve spies journeyed to the Promised Land. They stayed there forty days.

Upon their return to the Israelite camp, they carried with them an enormous cluster of grapes and other good fruits. They reported, "The land is very rich. But it has strong inhabitants and great walled cities. The people are as large as giants."

However, two of the spies, Caleb and Josue, advised, "Let us go to that land, for we can conquer it. The country is flowing

with milk and honey. If the Lord is with us, we shall possess that land and live there happily."

The Israelites were frightened, and did not want to go. Murmuring against Moses, they said to each other, "Let us choose another leader to take us back to Egypt."

To Moses they cried, "Why have you brought us to this land to die? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

God was very much displeased because the people had no faith. He would have destroyed them, but Moses prayed Him to have patience.

God forgave the people, but said, "I will punish them. None of those who are twenty years old and over, and murmured against Me, shall reach the Promised Land. Only Caleb and Josue shall enter it. For forty years the Children of Israel shall wander in the desert."

Moses who so often prayed God to pardon the Israelites was a figure of our Lord Jesus Christ Who intercedes for us before the Eternal Father.



Whoever was bitten by a serpent and looked at the brass serpent was cured.

38. Miracles in the Desert

THE Children of Israel wandered forty years in the desert. Several times they again forgot God and murmured against Moses and Aaron.

Once, when they could not find fruit or water, they were angry and said to Moses, "Why have you brought us into this desert to die? Here no fruit, or grain, or vine, will grow. We cannot even find water to drink."

Moses and Aaron went to the Tabernacle to pray for the people. God told Moses to strike a rock before the Israelites. God promised that the rock would give forth water for them to drink.

Moses called the people together in front of the rock. He struck the rock two times. From the rock water gushed forth, and the people could drink.

Now Moses struck the rock two times because he knew how wicked the Israelites had been. He wondered if God would really give them water, as He had promised, even when they had been very wicked.

God saw this lack of faith, and said to Moses, "Because you have not believed

Me you shall not lead the people into the Promised Land."

The Children of Israel were very ungrateful to God in the desert, in spite of so many benefits they received from Him. They even murmured against God. They blamed Moses for all their troubles, saying, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Here we have no water. We are tired of eating manna, and there is no other bread."

To punish the wicked people, God sent serpents to bite them. Many of them died. The people went to Moses and begged him to pray God that the serpents be taken away. God said to Moses, "Make a serpent of brass. Everyone who looks on that shall live."

Moses fashioned a serpent of brass and set it up for a sign. Whenever someone was bitten by a serpent, he would look at the brass serpent and get cured.

This serpent of brass was a figure of Christ, Who was nailed on the Cross on Mount Calvary to save mankind.



When the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the Jordan, the waters parted before them on both sides.

39. The Arrival at the Promised Land (1451 B.C.)

AFTER the Israelites had wandered forty years in the desert, Moses one day called them together. As God had commanded him, he told them that Josue should succeed him as their leader.

Then Moses went up Mount Nebo, from where God showed him the Promised Land. "That is the land I will give to the children of Israel," God said, "but you shall not enter it, because you doubted Me."

Moses died at the age of one hundred and twenty years. He was a wise ruler, an illustrious Prophet, and a great Saint. He wrote the first five books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch.

After the death of Moses, God said to Josue, "Arise and lead the people into the Promised Land. As I was with Moses, so I shall be with you. I will never forsake you. Take courage and be strong."

So Josue took command of the Israelites. He sent two spies before him across the river Jordan into the city of Jericho. The two spies stayed in the house of a woman named Rahab. The house was built near the walls of the city. When

the king of Jericho heard that there were two Israelites in Rahab's house, he ordered her to give them up to him. But she hid them on the roof, and told the king that they had left. When night came, she helped them escape by letting them down with a rope out of a window.

The two spies returned to Josue, and said, "The Lord has truly given us Jericho. All the people there are afraid of us."

Josue prepared the Children of Israel to cross the Jordan to Jericho. The priests went first, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as they stepped into the Jordan, the waters went back on both sides, so that there was a dry passage to the other bank. The Israelites crossed safely through this dry passage to the opposite bank of the river. In this way, after many years of wandering, the Israelites came at last to the Promised Land. There the manna ceased to fall, because the land was flowing with milk and honey.

The Promised Land is a figure of Heaven. Once in Heaven, we shall see God face to face and no longer under the appearances of bread and wine.



Josue commanded, "Shout, for the Lord has delivered the city to you."

40. The Taking of Jericho

WHEN the people of Jericho heard how the Israelites had crossed the Jordan, they were very much afraid. They closed all the gates in the walls of the city.

Josue ordered the people to march with the priests carrying the Ark before them, around the walls once a day for six days. As they marched, they made no noise, except for seven priests who continually blew trumpets. On the seventh day the Israelites went around the walls seven times.

Then Josue commanded, "Shout, for the Lord has delivered the city to you." The priests blew loudly on their trumpets, and the people gave a great shout. And all at once the walls of Jericho fell down.

The Israelites entered and took the city. They killed all the inhabitants, except the family of Rahab, who had protected the two spies. After killing the people of Jericho, the Israelites set the city on fire, destroying it completely.

Josue fought many other battles. Once, because it was getting dark, he commanded the sun to stop; it obeyed him, so that the Israelite army won a great victory.

In this way the Children of Israel returned to the Promised Land. Before he went to Egypt with his sons, Jacob had lived in Chanaan. His twelve sons were the ancestors of the Israelites. This is why the Children of Israel were divided into twelve tribes, each tribe being named after one of Jacob's sons. The principal tribe was that of Juda, from which the Saviour was, according to the prophecies, to come.

Josue divided Chanaan among the tribes of Israel. Only the tribe of Levi, which was that of the priests, was not given any land, because the priests were allowed to live among the other tribes and were to be supported by them.

Josue tried to lead the Israelites to love God. He told them that God wanted them to conquer the Land of Chanaan because there its people worshipped false gods.

However, after Josue's death, the Israelites disobeyed God. They made friends with the Chanaanites, and even married them. Very soon many of the Children of Israel forgot God completely, and began to worship idols.



They banged their pitchers and held up the lamps, shouting, "The sword of the Lord and Gideon!"

41. The Victory of Gedeon

FOR MANY years God allowed the Israelites to be troubled by their enemies. God however did not abandon the Children of Israel. He sent them brave men to lead them in battle, and to rule over them.

These men ruled the Israelites for four hundred years. They were called Judges. There were in all sixteen Judges who ruled Israel. One of the bravest was Gedeon.

Before Gedeon became Judge, the Israelites were being troubled by people living in Madian near Chanaan. One day, as Gedeon was threshing wheat, an Angel appeared before him and said, "The Lord is with you, O brave Gedeon. Go and save the Children of Israel from the Madianites."

That night Gedeon took ten of his servants to Madian and destroyed the altar of Baal, a false god. The Madianites gathered an army and marched against Israel.

Gedeon selected three hundred men from the Israelite army, and divided them into three companies.

To each man he gave a trumpet and a

pitcher containing a lamp. He said, "Do what you see me do. When I blow my trumpet, blow yours also."

Gedeon led his men at midnight against the Madianite camp. He blew his trumpet, and all his men did so, too. They banged their pitchers and held up the lamps, shouting, "The sword of the Lord and Gedeon!"

The Madianites were surprised and confused by the noise. They began fighting among themselves and killing one another. The Israelites easily drove them out of the country.

Gedeon led his people against many of their other enemies, and won victories for them. The Israelites said to Gedeon, "Rule over us. Be our king, and let your sons be kings after you."

But Gedeon answered, "I will not rule over you. Neither will my sons rule over you. God shall rule over you."

Gedeon is a model of a good ruler. He feared God and kept the commandments of God. God blessed him in all his ways.



Samson grasped the two pillars and shook them violently. The whole building fell.

42. The Strength of Samson

AMONG the Judges Samson was the one most renowned for his wonderful strength. He was raised up by God to save the Israelites from the Philistines.

Once, when still a young man, Samson met a raging lion. He tore the lion to pieces without using any weapon.

In a battle with the Philistines, he killed a thousand men with the jaw-bone of an ass. Another time the Philistines heard that Samson had gone to Gaza. They locked the city gates, so that they might capture him in the morning. At midnight Samson rose, lifted the gates on his shoulders, and carried them with the posts and bolts to the top of a neighboring hill.

Samson married a Philistine woman called Dalila. The Philistines offered to give her money if she would find out wherein his strength lay and how they could overcome him. She agreed to betray Samson.

Dalila begged Samson to reveal the secret to her, but he refused. However, she gave him no rest, and at last he said, "A razor has never passed over my head, for I

am consecrated to God. If my head should be shaved, my strength would leave me, I should become weak like other men."

When Samson was asleep, Dalila had his seven locks cut off. His strength left him. The Philistines seized him, put out his eyes, and cast him into prison. But Samson's hair began to grow again.

One day, the Philistines were feasting in their temple. They had Samson brought before them, so that they might make fun of him. About three thousand persons were present.

Samson said to the little boy that led him, "Let me touch the pillars which support the whole house, and let me lean against them, to rest myself a little."

Then he prayed, "O Lord God, restore to me my former strength!" And grasping the two pillars, he shook them violently. The whole building fell, killing Samson and the three thousand Philistines present.

Dalila was the cause of Samson's ruin. She was a bad companion for him. We must keep away from bad companions so that we may not be ruined forever.



Ruth said, "Do not ask me to leave you. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

43. The Faithfulness of Ruth

ONCE, when the Judges were ruling Israel, there was a famine. A certain man from the tribe of Juda therefore took his wife and two sons, and went to live in the land of Moab. This man died there.

After several years the two sons married women of Moab, named Orpha and Ruth. When about ten more years had passed, the two sons also died. Their mother, Noemi, was left alone with her sons' wives.

Noemi decided to return to her people in Israel. She said to her daughters-in-law, "Go back to the house of your fathers. May God give you peace and happiness."

Orpha and Ruth wept, and wanted to follow Noemi, but she said, "Go back, my daughters." She then kissed them goodby.

So Orpha left Noemi. But Ruth clung to her and would not leave her. She said, "Do not ask me to leave you, to be separated from you. For wherever you go, there will I go. Wherever you live, there I too will live. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Wherever you die, there I

shall die and be buried. Nothing will part me from you."

Noemi was happy to see Ruth so faithful. She let her go along with her to the old home in Bethlehem of Judea.

Noemi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the harvest. Ruth asked permission of Noemi to pick up grain after reapers. She went to the field of Booz, a rich relative of Noemi's husband.

When Booz saw Ruth, he said to his workers, "Let her gather as much as she can. Leave some of your grain on the field, so that she may gather more, and do not disturb her."

Ruth worked in the field of Booz every day until evening, to the end of the harvest. She did not go to another field, because Booz was kind to her. She gathered after the reapers all day, beat out the grain, then went home and gave it to Noemi.

Later on, Ruth married Booz, and had a son. This son was named Obed. He became the father of Iesse, who was the father of David, the King.



When Heli heard the news of his son's death, he fell from his seat, broke his neck and died.

44. Samuel as Judge (1116 B.C.)

AMONG the children of Israel there lived a couple named Elcana and Anna. Anna was getting old, but still had no child. So she prayed to God for one. She promised that if God gave her a son, she would give him to the Lord all his days.

God answered Anna's prayers and sent her Samuel. He became one of the wisest Judges of Israel.

When Samuel was yet a little boy, Anna his mother took him to serve in the Temple. The priest at that time was Heli.

Anna said, "God sent me this son in answer to my prayers. I have brought him to serve in the Temple. As long as he lives, he belongs to God."

One night, when Samuel had been serving in the Temple some years, he heard someone calling. He ran to Heli, the high priest, and said, "Here I am."

But Heli replied, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep."

Samuel went back to bed. After a while he again heard his name being called. He jumped up and went to Heli, crying,

"Here I am, for you called me."

This happened three times. At last Heli knew that it was God who had spoken to Samuel. He told the boy, if he was called again, to answer, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."

Samuel went back to sleep. After a while he once more heard a voice calling him. He answered, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Then God spoke and told Samuel that He was going to punish Heli and his sons. Heli's sons were wicked, but Heli did not punish them, although he knew about their wickedness.

Some time after this, the Philistines fought against the Israelites. Heli's sons were killed in battle. The Ark of the Covenant was captured. When Heli heard the news, he fell from his seat, broke his neck, and died.

When Samuel was grown up, he became a Judge of Israel and ruled wisely. He appointed his sons Judges, too. But they were wicked, and the Israelites asked Samuel to find a king to rule over them.



Samuel poured oil on the head of Saul as a sign that Saul would become king.

45. Saul, First King of Israel (1095 B.C.)

THE ISRAELITES continued to ask Samuel to find them a king. Samuel prayed God in behalf of the people.

Telling Samuel that a man named Saul would arrive, God said, "You must anoint Saul king." That act would be a sign that God had chosen Saul king.

Soon after, Saul came. Samuel poured oil on his head, as God had commanded, for a sign that Saul would become king. Samuel said, "God has anointed you king of the Israelites. You shall rule over them and protect them from their enemies."

The Israelites were joyful when they saw Saul. He was strong and handsome, and taller than any other man in Israel.

In the beginning of Saul's rule, everything went well. God was always with the Israelites, and defended them against their enemies.

But when he won many victories, Saul became proud of himself and sinned against God. At last God ordered Samuel to tell Saul that he would no longer be king of Israel. God directed Samuel to anoint a young shepherd boy named David.

The proud man is always punished by God. Pride was the sin of Satan. We must be humble, remembering that we could be nothing without God.

Saul was full of sorrow when he learned that God no longer wanted him to be king of Israel. He spent long hours in unhappy and gloomy thought.

One day Saul's servants said, "Let us bring you a man who will play on the harp and cheer you up. Then your gloomy thoughts will be driven away." And they sent for David.

Saul did not know that Samuel had anointed David. He made David his armor-bearer and grew to love him as his own son. In the palace David led a happy life. He would play on his harp every time he saw the king sad. Then Saul would breathe more easily, and forget his troubles.

David and Jonathan, Saul's son, became the best of friends. All the people grew to love David so much that at last Saul felt jealous. He was angry that the people should praise David for his bravery, and finally sought to kill him.



Goliath fell. David took the giant's sword and cut off his head.

46. David and Goliath

THE strongest enemies of the Israelites were the Philistines. Once the Philistines built their camp on one mountain. The Israelites pitched theirs on the opposite mountain. Both armies prepared for battle.

Out of the Philistine army came a giant named Goliath. Every day he went forth and called out loud to the Israelites, "Choose one man from among you. Let him come down to fight me. If he kills me, we will be your servants. If I kill him, then you shall become our servants."

Saul and the Israelites were very much afraid. Goliath was so huge and strong that all were sure he would kill whoever dared to fight against him.

Many days passed. Still no Israelite dared to fight Goliath. One day David arrived at the Israelite camp. He heard the giant's challenge, and became angry. He asked, "Who is this man who defies the army of God? I will go and fight him."

Saul replied, "You cannot fight Goliath. He has fought and won many battles, but you are only a boy."

"I have killed both a lion and a bear that took a lamb out of my father's flock. The Lord Who protected me from those fierce animals will protect me against this proud Philistine giant," answered David.

Taking his staff, David went down to the brook and chose five smooth stones. These he put in his bag. With his sling in his hand he then went to meet Goliath.

The giant was angry when he saw how small and young David was. He roared, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with a staff?"

David replied, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a shield. I come in the name of God, Who will deliver you into my hands." Taking one of the stones from his bag, David put it in his sling and threw it. It struck the giant on the forehead. Goliath fell. David took the giant's sword and cut off his head.

He who places his confidence in God may overcome the greatest difficulties and conquer the enemies of his soul.



When David was thirty years old, he became King of Israel.

47. King David (1055 B.C.)

WHEN David was thirty years old, he became King of Israel. He was a good king to his people, and protected them from their enemies. During his rule Israel became great and powerful.

Leading his soldiers against the city of Jerusalem, David conquered it and made it his capital. He built a wall around it and called it the City of David.

During the time that he ruled, David tried to lead the people to worship God as they should. He brought to Jerusalem the Ark that had been captured by the Philistines. He built a Tabernacle on Mount Sion to house the Ark.

The Ark was carried to this new Tabernacle in a great procession. As guard of honor, there were thirty thousand armed men. Numberless people followed the Ark. Those near played upon harps and flutes, and blew trumpets. David himself was in the procession playing on his harp, and dancing with joy before the Ark. After every few steps, the procession stopped to offer sacrifice. Everybody was glad to see the Ark brought to the City of David.

With the Ark of the Covenant placed safely in the new Tabernacle, David divided the priests into twenty-four groups. Each group was to serve in turn before the Lord. David chose four thousand musicians to sing praises, and to play music to God each day.

If the Ark of the Covenant was the object of so much reverence, with how much more respect and veneration should we look upon our churches, where God Himself is present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!

Not only was David a great king. He was a great poet as well. He was inspired by God to write the poems that today we call the Psalms. Some of the Psalms of David are songs of thanksgiving and praise. Others tell of sorrow and repentance for sin.

Because David loved and served God, he was in turn loved by God, Who promised that the Saviour should be born of his family. David wanted to build a Temple, but God by a prophet sent him a message, saying, "Not you, but your son shall build Me a temple. I will establish his kingdom forever."



As the mule ran under an oak tree, Absalom's hair was caught in the branches.

48. The Ingratitude of Absalom

DAVID fell into temptation and sinned against God. He took Bethsabee, the wife of Urias, and afterwards plotted the death of her husband.

Greatly offended, God sent the prophet Nathan to rebuke David. The king humbly acknowledged his fault, saying, "I have sinned against the Lord." Because of this humble confession, God pardoned David. But as punishment for his sins, David was sent many trials.

David's greatest trial was the revolt of his son Absalom. Absalom plotted against his father, beginning by flattering the people. When he thought he had enough supporters, he openly declared war. So many flocked to aid Absalom that David and his followers had to leave Jerusalem.

Weeping and walking barefoot, David went over the brook Cedron, up Mt. Olivet, and across the Jordan. A man named Semei met him, and threw stones at him and cursed him, calling him a man of blood.

One of David's servants wanted to kill Semei, but David said, "Let him alone and

do not trouble him. Perhaps the Lord will see my sorrow, and turn his curses into blessings."

Absalom pursued his father beyond the Jordan. Their armies met, and a battle was fought in the forest.

Absalom's army was defeated, and he fled on his mule. As the animal ran under an oak tree, Absalom's long hair was caught in the branches. While he hung there, the mule ran away. One of David's generals went and thrust three spears into Absalom's heart, and so the ungrateful son died.

The horrible fate of Absalom is a lesson to all children, teaching them to obey and honor their parents, as God commands.

When David heard of Absalom's death, he was filled with sorrow. He cried out, "My son Absalom, Absalom my son! Would to God that I might die for thee, Absalom my son, my son Absalom!"

In his sorrow for his son, David was a figure of Christ weeping, praying, and dying for His rebellious people, even for them that crucified Him.



Solomon ordered, "Divide the living child in two and give one-half to each woman."

B5

49. The Wisdom of Solomon (1015 B.C.)

AFTER forty years as king of Israel, David died. His son Solomon succeeded him.

In the beginning Solomon followed the example of his father, and was a good ruler. One night God appeared to him and said, "Ask whatever you wish me to give you."

"You made me King," replied Solomon. "I am only like a little child in wisdom, for I do not know much. But I must rule this great people, the children of Israel. If You will, therefore, give me an understanding heart, so that I may know the difference between good and evil. With such a gift I shall be able to judge well."

God was pleased with the words of Solomon. He said, "Because you have asked for understanding, and have not asked for long life or riches, I shall give you all these together."

Solomon's wisdom was soon put to a test. Two women came to ask him to decide a quarrel. One of them said, "This

woman and I live in one house. This woman's child died. But she took my child while I slept, and put her dead child near me instead. I saw, when I awoke, that it was not my child."

"No," said the other woman, "the living child is mine, not hers."

The two began quarreling once more. There did not seem to be any way of deciding who was the mother of the living child.

King Solomon ordered, "Bring a sword. Divide the living child into two. Then give one-half to each woman."

At this, one woman cried, "O my Lord, give her the child alive, but do not kill it!"

The second woman, however, said, "Let not the child be mine or hers, but divide it."

Solomon, pointing to the first woman, said, "Give her the living child. She is its mother." For Solomon in his wisdom knew that she, being the true mother, could not bear to see her child killed.



In the fourth year of his rule, Solomon began to build the Temple on Mount Moriah.

50. The Temple of Solomon (1004 B.C.)

BEFORE King David died, he called his son Solomon, and told him to build a temple for the Lord. He said, "I have gathered gold and silver, brass and iron, wood and stone, for the temple. But God will not let me build it, because I have taken part in many bloody wars."

In the fourth year of his rule, Solomon began to build God's temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. He sent ten thousand Israelites to Libanus to cut cedars and pine trees for wood. Seventy thousand men carried the wood to Jerusalem. Eighty thousand men cut stone in the mountains. Three thousand six hundred men were overseers of the workmen. All the material needed for the temple was made ready before it was taken to Mount Moriah. This is why when the building was started, there was no sound of hammer, axe, or any other iron tool, heard there.

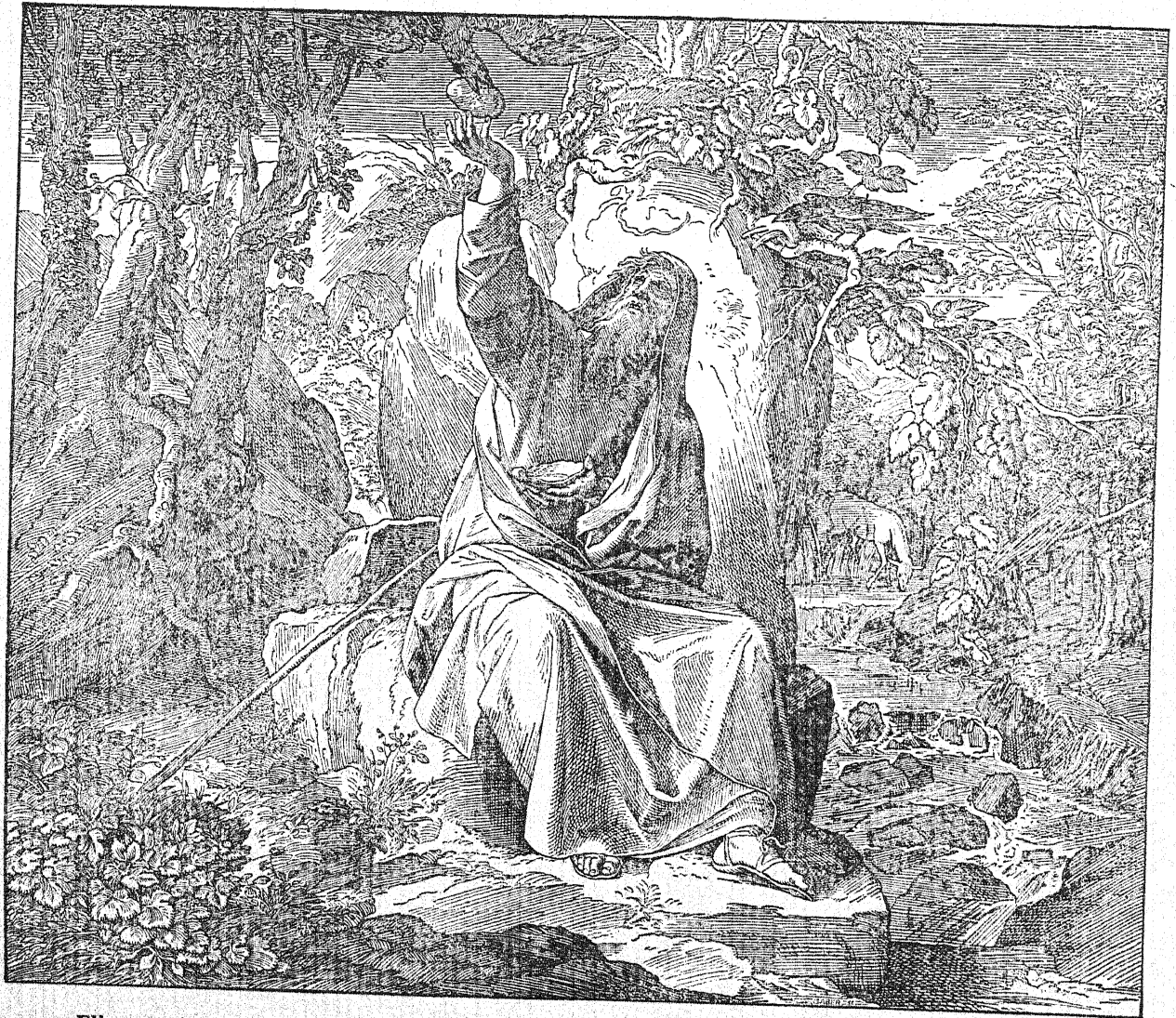
There were two parts to the building, which was of vast and magnificent proportions. The smaller but more important part was the "Holy of Holies". It was completely covered with gold. Two figures of angels, with outspread wings, were cut out of olive wood, covered with gold, and

placed in the "Holy of Holies" to stand guard over the Ark which was to be kept there.

After seven years the temple was finished. It was furnished in rich style, all the vessels for its use being of precious materials. Then the priests brought the Ark, containing the Ten Commandments and the Book of the Law, and placed it in the Holy of Holies. When the Ark was placed in the Temple, a cloud filled the place. The people knew then that God was present.

After many years, Solomon was led away from God by pagan and impure women that he brought to his court. Giving in to his evil desires, Solomon sank deeper into wickedness. He even worshipped the false gods of the pagan women, and built a temple for their idols. We see in this example how even the wisest of men may fall into atrocious crimes when he sins against purity.

God was offended by Solomon's ingratitude and punished him. When his son Roboam became king, ten tribes revolted and formed the tribes of Israel. The people were divided into two great divisions, — Juda and Israel.



Elias went to a brook near the Jordan. There morning and evening ravens brought him food.

51. Elias the Prophet

FROM the time the Israelites left Egypt, God protected them and even showed them signs of His goodness and power.

Nevertheless they continually broke His commandments. They married pagans, people adoring false gods. Many times they themselves worshipped these false gods. Out of pity for them, God sent holy men to lead them back to Him. These men were the Prophets.

The Prophets not only taught the people how to serve God; they also foretold the coming of the Saviour, Who was to come to earth to save mankind from sin. The greatest of the Prophets were Elias, Isaías, and Jeremias.

The prophet Elias lived when King Achab was ruling Israel. This king had married a pagan wife, Jezabel, and had built a temple to her god, Baal. In that temple Achab also adored Baal.

Elias, being sent by God, said to Achab, "To punish you for worshipping idols, God will not send any rain for three years. There will be a famine."

Everything happened as Elias had

foretold. When there was no more rain, God told Elias to go to a brook near the river Jordan. He went, and there morning and evening ravens brought him food. He drank from the brook and was not thirsty.

After a while the brook dried up. God then said to Elias, "Go to the town of Sarephta. There a widow will feed you." Elias obeyed, and went to Sarephta.

When he came to the gate of the city, Elias saw the widow gathering sticks. He called, "Please give me some water to drink," and added, "Bring also a piece of bread."

The widow told him that she had no bread. She only had a handful of meal and a little oil. "Make me a cake out of the meal and oil, for God will not let it be used up," said Elias. The widow did so. The oil and meal lasted till the famine was over. Every day there was enough for Elias, the widow and her son.

Sometime later the widow's son fell ill and died. Elias prayed to God, "O Lord, let the soul of this child return into his body." And the widow's son lived again.



At once the wood burst into flame. The fire consumed not only the ox and the wood, but also the stones on the altar.

B5

52. The Miracle of the Fire

IN THE third year of the famine, Elias said to King Achab, "Call all the people of Israel. Call also the four hundred fifty priests of Baal. Then you shall all see that God sent the famine because you have followed Baal and have disobeyed God's commands."

When the people were all gathered together, Elias said, "If Baal is God, follow him. But if the Lord is God, why do you disobey Him? I am the only prophet of God. There are four hundred fifty prophets of Baal. Let them choose an ox, cut it to pieces, and lay it on an altar. I will also take an ox, cut it, and lay it on another altar. Let no fire be set to the wood under each ox. Then let the prophets of Baal call on him, while I call on the Lord. He who answers with fire on the wood is the True God."

The prophets of Baal prepared their ox. They placed it on the wood of their altar. They began calling, "Baal, hear us, and send us fire!" They called to Baal from morning till noon. They even cut

themselves with their knives, so that blood covered their bodies. All the time they kept calling on Baal. But nothing happened. No one answered their cries. No fire appeared on their wood.

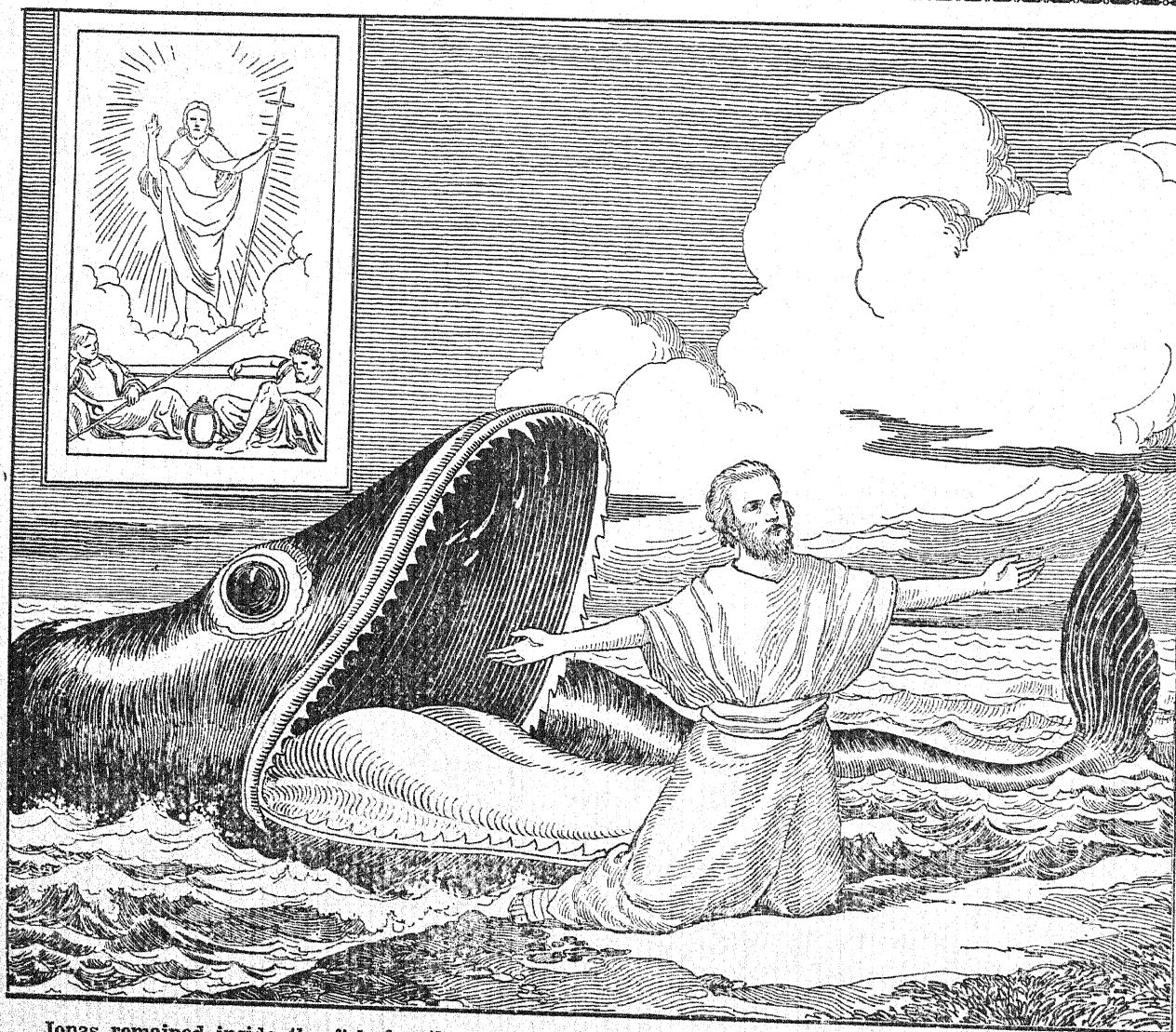
Then Elias said to the people, "Come near." He built an altar of stones, placed the wood, cut his ox in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He poured water over the ox and wood.

Then he prayed to God, "Lord, show this day that You are the True God, that I am Your servant, and that I have done everything at Your command."

At once the wood burst into flame. There was a big fire, which burnt not only the ox and the wood, but also the stones on the altar.

When the people saw this miracle, they cried, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!" After a while the sky turned black, and there was a heavy rain. This was the first rain in three years.

Through the prophet Elias God performed many other miracles.



Jonas remained inside the fish for three days and nights. At last it vomited Jonas upon dry land.

B5

53. Jonas and the Fish

GOD ordered the Prophet Jonas to go to Ninive and preach penance, for the people were committing many great sins. Unwilling to go, Jonas fled to the sea, and embarked on a boat going to Tharsis.

God sent a violent storm, and the ship was in danger of being wrecked. The sailors in great fear threw overboard all the goods they carried, to lighten the ship. Believing that someone on board was the cause of their misfortune, they drew lots. The lot fell upon Jonas, who said, "Cast me into the sea, and the tempest shall be calmed." The sailors took Jonas and cast him into the sea. At once the tempest ceased.

God prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonas. The prophet remained inside the fish for three days and three nights. He continually prayed to God. At last at the Lord's command the fish vomited Jonas upon dry land. Then God again ordered Jonas to go to Ninive.

This time Jonas obeyed. At Ninive he said, "Yet forty days, and Ninive shall be destroyed."

The people, upon hearing this, repented and fasted. Even the king did penance, and issued a proclamation that everyone should repent, so that God might forgive Ninive and spare it. God saw their sincerity, and in His mercy spared the city.

Jonas feared that he might be looked upon as a false prophet. Building a hut outside the city he waited there to see what would befall Ninive.

God caused an ivy to grow and shelter Jonas from the hot sun. For this Jonas was grateful. Now the next morning, God caused the ivy to wither. The sun beat down with such heat on Jonas that he cried, "It is better for me to die than to live."

God then said to him, "You are sorry for the ivy, although you were not the one to make it grow. Shall I not therefore spare Ninive, which has more than one hundred twenty thousand people?"

Jonas, cast into the sea to save the crew, was a figure of Jesus Christ, who was sacrificed to redeem mankind. Jonas was three days inside the fish; Christ was three days in the tomb.



Tobias buried the bodies of those that the Assyrian King had ordered to be killed.



Young Tobias applied the medicine and restored his father's eyesight.

54. Tobias and His Son

THE sins of its people became so great that at last the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed. Its inhabitants were carried off to Assyria.

Among the captives was Tobias, a God-fearing man. He spent much of his time consoling the captives, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked.

When the Assyrian king, Sennacherib, killed many Israelites and commanded their bodies to remain unburied, Tobias hid them in his house and buried them, at great risk to his own safety. One day, tired from this work, he fell asleep and accidentally lost his eyesight. He bore the misfortune with resignation.

When Tobias was already old, fearing that he would soon die, he called his son and said, "Honor your mother always. Fear God and never sin. Give alms to the poor. Keep yourself from all impurity. Never let pride rule you, for all perdition began from pride. Do not do to another what you would hate him to do to you. Seek the counsel of the wise man. Pray God

at all times, and ask Him to direct your ways. We are poor, but we shall possess much if we fear God and abhor sin."

Tobias one day told his son to go to Rages to collect a loan. On his way, young Tobias was met by a young man. This was the angel Raphael, but young Tobias did not know it. The angel offered to guide young Tobias to Rages.

On the journey, young Tobias stopped by a river to rest and bathe. A large fish came out of the water and wanted to devour him. But the angel told him to catch the fish, cut up its flesh for food, and preserve the liver, gall, and heart for medicine.

On their return home, they applied that medicine to old Tobias' eyes, and in this way restored his eyesight.

The angel made himself known, saying, "I am the angel Raphael, one of the seven who stand before the Lord." He told them how God had sent him to heal the elder Tobias as a reward for his prayers and corporal works of mercy.



Judith cut off the head of Holofernes. She gave it to her maid to carry, and they returned to Bethulia.

55. Judith in the Assyrian Camp

MANASSES, King of Juda, was held captive in Babylon. The Assyrian king sent his general, Holofernes, to conquer Chanaan.

Holofernes laid siege to the city of Bethulia. The people decided to surrender if no aid came within five days.

At that time there lived in Bethulia a young widow named Judith. She led a secluded life, praying and fasting. When she heard that the city was going to surrender, she said to the ancients, "Let us be patient and humble, and ask the Lord to show us mercy according to His will."

The ancients begged her, "Pray for us, for you are a holy woman."

Judith went to her oratory, put ashes on her head as a sign of penance, and prayed God for help. Then putting on her beautiful clothes, she went with her maid to the Assyrian camp. When Holofernes saw her, he was pleased with her, and commanded that she might go in and out as she wished.

Four days after her arrival, he gave a great banquet during which he became drunk, and fell fast asleep. Judith waited

till everybody had left. She stood weeping and praying, "Strengthen me, O Lord, that I may act according to Thy will." Then taking down Holofernes' sword, she cut off his head. She went out and gave it to her maid to carry in a satchel. They left the camp and went back to Bethulia.

All ran in great joy to meet Judith, for no one had expected her to return. She said, showing them Holofernes' head, "Praise God, Who has not forsaken them that hope in Him. Glorify Him, for His mercy endures forever."

In the morning the people hung up Holofernes' head upon the city walls. All took up arms and went against the Assyrian camp. When the Assyrians found the headless body of their general, they were filled with terror and fled. In this way Judith saved her people.

Judith is one of the best figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church exalts the Blessed Virgin using the praises the Israelites sang at the triumphant return of Judith: "You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the joy of Israel, you are the honor and glory of your people."



The soldiers of the king of Babylon burned the Temple of Jerusalem, broke down the city walls, and took the Jews to Babylon as captives.

56. The Babylonian Captivity (606 B.C.)

THE Prophets tried to turn the people of Juda from their evil ways by telling them that if they disobeyed God, they would be defeated by their enemies. But the Jews paid no attention to the words of their holy men.

One of their enemies was Nabuchodonosor, king of Babylon. This king sent an army to conquer Jerusalem. The soldiers burnt the Temple, and broke down the city walls. They took many of the Jews to Babylon as captives. They also took away the precious vessels and ornaments of the Temple of God.

Among the Jews who were taken captive were Daniel and his three friends. Because of their wisdom, these four men came to be honored by Nabuchodonosor.

One night the king had a dream which the wise men of Babylon could not interpret. In anger the king ordered all the wise men put to death. When soldiers came to kill Daniel and his three friends, Daniel asked the king to give him time to explain the dream.

Daniel prayed God for help, and God revealed to him the meaning, so that Daniel could interpret Nabuchodonosor's dream. The King was very much surprised. He said, "Truly, your God is the true God." He made Daniel governor of Babylon.

Some time after, Nabuchodonosor made a golden statue, which he ordered everyone in Babylon to worship. When Daniel and his friends refused, the king was so angry that he ordered Daniel's three friends cast into a very hot furnace.

The furnace was so hot that the men who cast the three friends in were burnt to death by the flames. But the three were not hurt in any way. An angel came down to them. A soft cool breeze filled the interior of the furnace. The friends walked about in the midst of the flames singing praises to God.

From this Nabuchodonosor knew that God was protecting the young men. He called them out of the furnace and said, "Blessed be their God. There is no other God that can save in this manner."



Daniel said to Baltasar, "You have lifted yourself up against God, Therefore, see the writing on the wall: Mane, Thecel, Phares."

57. The Writing on the Wall

WHEN Baltasar was king of Babylon, he invited a thousand of his nobles to a great feast. He ordered that the vessels of gold and silver which his father Nabuchodonosor had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem should be used. From these holy vessels the king and his guests drank wine at the feast.

As this great company feasted, drinking wine from the sacred vessels, a hand appeared, writing on the wall. The hand wrote a few words, and then disappeared.

Upon seeing the hand, the king turned pale and trembled with fear. He called upon all the wise men in Babylon to tell him the meaning of the writing on the wall. He promised, "Whosoever can tell me the meaning of these words shall be clothed in purple, and shall wear a gold chain around his neck. He shall be the third greatest in the whole kingdom." But no one could interpret the writing.

Then the queen came into the banquet-hall. She advised the king to consult Daniel, as Nabuchodonosor had done.

Daniel was therefore brought before Baltasar, who promised him what he had promised the other wise men, if he could interpret the writing.

Daniel replied, "God gave your father, Nabuchodonosor, a kingdom and much power and glory. Your father became proud, and so God took away all powers from him. But you, Baltasar, knowing this, have not been humble. You have lifted yourself up against God. You have used the sacred vessels in your feasting. Therefore see the writing on the wall: Mane, Thecel, Phares. And this is the meaning: Mane: God has numbered your kingdom and has brought it to an end. Thecel: You are weighed in the balance, and are found wanting. Phares: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

Baltasar was terrified. Nevertheless he did what he had promised, and rewarded Daniel. That night the king was killed.

History often tells us that those who profane churches or things pertaining to the sacrifice of the Mass are punished by God.



At the command of the Angel, Habacuc gave the food he carried to Daniel.

58. Daniel in the Lions' Den

AFTER the death of Baltasar, Darius the Mede became king. He also was pleased with Daniel, and set him over all his other officers.

Some years later Cyrus became king of Babylon. He too gave honors and powers to Daniel. Daniel tried to teach Cyrus about God. He told Cyrus that the false gods worshipped in Babylon could not help anyone. He said, "The God that I adore is the Living God. Your gods are false gods and do not live."

Beginning to believe Daniel's teaching, Cyrus allowed him to destroy some of the idols. At this the people of Babylon were made very angry. They went to Cyrus and demanded, "Give us Daniel, or we will kill you, and destroy your house."

The king was very much terrified, and so allowed the people to take Daniel. They led him to a den of lions, and threw him in to be devoured by the wild and hungry animals.

But the lions did not kill Daniel. They became tame as lambs, and did not hurt him in any way.

For six days Daniel stayed in the lions' den. Nobody brought him food, so that he became very hungry.

At that time, far from Babylon, there lived a prophet named Habacuc. He was one day taking some food to the workers in a field, when suddenly an angel took him by the hair of his head.

The angel carried Habacuc off to Babylon, and put him in the den where Daniel was. At the command of the angel, Habacuc gave the food he carried to Daniel. Then the angel lifted Habacuc up once more, and carried him back to his house. In this way God provided food for Daniel in the den of lions.

On the seventh day Cyrus went to see what had happened to Daniel. How great was his surprise when he saw Daniel sitting safe among the fierce lions!

Calling his servants, Cyrus ordered Daniel taken out and his enemies cast into the den instead. As soon as the enemies of Daniel were thrown in, the lions killed and hungrily devoured them.



Zorobabel, a prince of the Jews, led more than 40,000 of his people back to Jerusalem.

59. The Return to Jerusalem (536 B.C.)

THE Jews were in captivity for seventy years. But when Cyrus, king of Persia, became king of Babylon, he issued a proclamation allowing the Jews to return to their native country.

Zorobabel, a prince among the Jews, led more than 40,000 of his people back to Jerusalem. Cyrus restored to them the golden and silver vessels which Nabuchodonosor had taken from the Temple.

At their arrival in Jerusalem, the Jews set up a temporary altar, and renewed the Mosaic ritual of prayer and sacrifice. They then started rebuilding the Temple on the site on which Solomon's Temple had stood.

After about twenty years, the new temple was completed, and dedicated amidst much rejoicing. But the old men, who had seen Solomon's Temple, lamented because the new one was much less magnificent.

However, the prophet Aggeus consoled the Jews, saying that the glory of the second Temple would be greater than that of the first, because the Messiah Himself would enter it. This prophecy was fulfilled, for Jesus later taught in this Temple.

Twenty years after Zorobabel's return to Jerusalem, Esdras, a holy priest, gathered together many Jews still remaining in

Babylon, and led them back to Judea. With the aid of his friend Nehemias, he instructed the people in the law of God.

Nehemias urged the building of the wall of Jerusalem. In two months the city was surrounded by strong walls as a protection against enemies.

In the days of Nehemias, Malachias, the last of the prophets, lived, about 400 years before Christ. Malachias preached against the hypocrites of his day. He predicted that God would reject the sacrifices of the Old Law, and in their place would institute a New Sacrifice that would not cease, "from the rising of the sun even to the going down." This prophecy is fulfilled in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

At the destruction of Solomon's Temple, the prophet Jeremias had hidden the Ark of the Covenant. In later years it could not be found. So in the new Temple, the Jews marked the place for the Ark with a stone, and performed certain ceremonies over it.

In this way did God remove the most sacred vessel of the Old Law, to prepare for the coming of Christ. For the Ark of the Covenant was only a figure of the Tabernacle containing the Real Presence of the Son of God.



King Assuerus said to Esther, "Do not fear; this law is not made for you, but for all others."

60. Queen Esther Before the King

MANY Jews stayed in Babylon when their countrymen returned to Judea. Among these were Mardochai and the niece that he had adopted, Esther. The king, Assuerus, married Esther, and made her his queen.

In order to be near Esther, Mardochai used to stand near the gate of the palace. One day he heard two servants plotting to murder the king. He hastened to Esther with the news. She told the king, and the servants were punished. This event was written down in the book containing the story of the kingdom.

The favorite of the king was Aman, a very proud man. He wanted everybody to admire him, and to bow down before him when he passed. But Mardochai would not bow, wishing to reserve that honor to God alone. In revenge Aman resolved to have Mardochai and all the Jews killed. Mardochai therefore sent word to Esther, asking her to plead for her people before Assuerus.

At that time there was a law forbidding anyone's coming before the king unless called. If the law was broken, the punishment was death. Esther therefore

sent word to Mardochai, saying, "Gather the Jews together to pray for me. Let everybody fast for three days, as I also will. On the third day I will go before the king."

It has always been the practice of the people of God to pray and make penance in order to receive favors from Him.

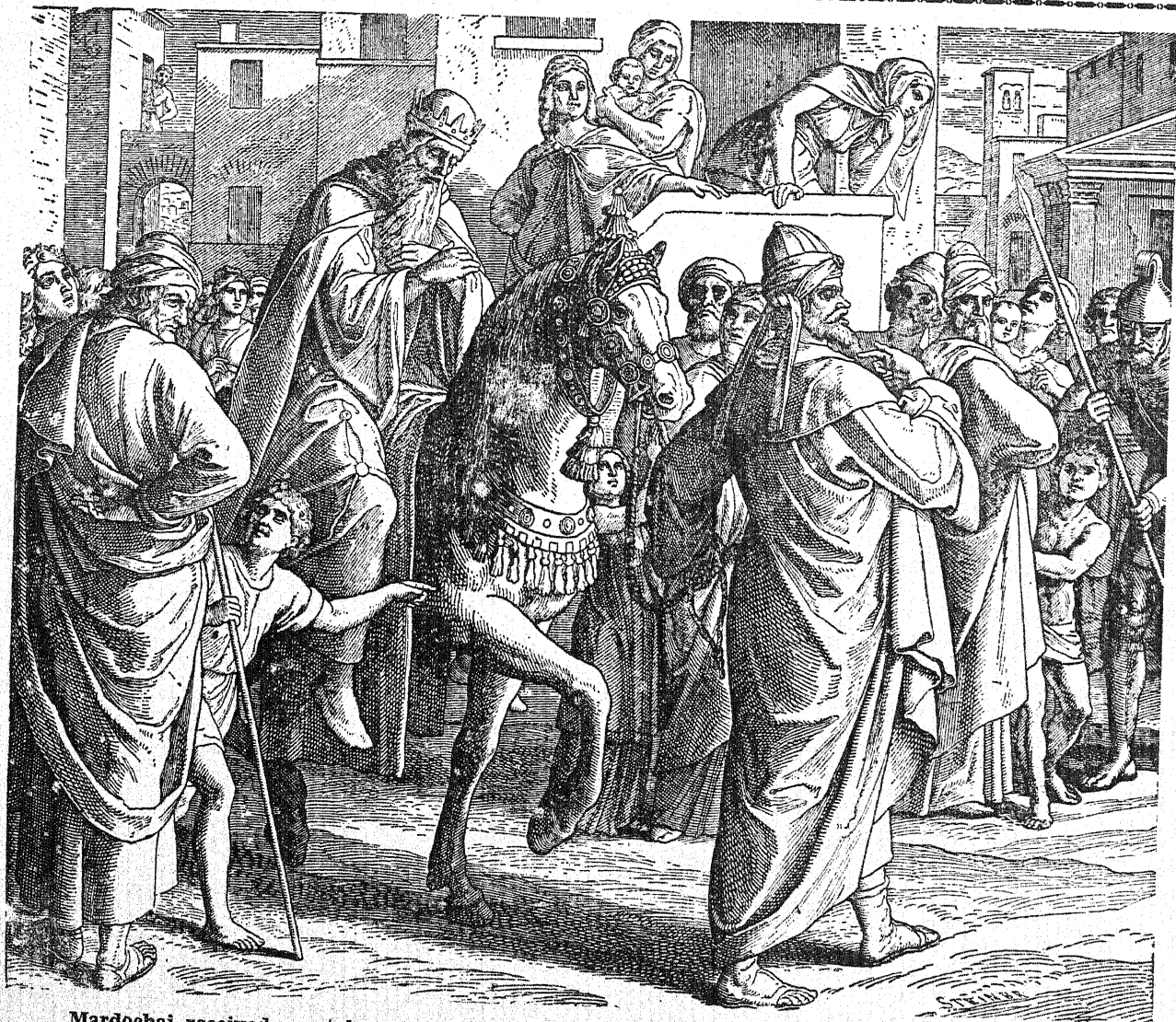
On the third day, Queen Esther put on her royal clothes and went before Assuerus. He was surprised, but forgave her, because he loved her.

Holding out to her his golden scepter as a sign of favor, Assuerus said, "Do not fear. This law is not made for you, but for all others. What is your wish?"

Esther answered, "If it please the king, I beseech you and Aman to come to a banquet that I shall prepare." The king promised to go.

That night, the king could not sleep. Therefore he ordered his servants to read to him out of the book of the story of the kingdom. It happened that the servants read that part telling how Mardochai saved the king's life from the two plotters.

Assuerus felt very grateful, and wished to reward Mardochai.



Mardochai received great honor, with Aman leading his horse through the streets of the city.

61. The Punishment of Aman

WHEN the servants read how Mardochai had saved his life, the king asked, "What reward has been given him?" But the servants answered that nothing had been done.

Just then Aman entered. The king asked him, "What should be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor?"

In his pride, Aman thought that the king meant him, and eagerly answered, "He should be clothed in the king's apparel, and be set upon the king's horse, and have the royal crown on his head. Let the first of the nobles hold his horse, and leading him through the city, proclaim: Thus shall he be honored, whom the king wishes to honor."

Assuerus therefore said, "Go, then, and do everything you have advised, to Mardochai the Jew." Aman had to obey the king. That day Mardochai received great honor, with Aman himself leading his horse through the streets of the city. How angry and jealous Aman was!

That evening, Assuerus and Aman went to the queen's banquet. The king asked, "What is your wish, Esther?"

Although you ask the half of my kingdom, it shall be given you."

But Esther only begged, "If you will, spare my life, and the lives of my people. For we have an enemy, who desires to destroy us."

When Assuerus asked who their enemy was, Esther replied, "It is this Aman that is our most wicked enemy."

Full of anger, Assuerus called his servants. One of them said, "Behold, Aman has prepared a gibbet from which to hang Mardochai." The king commanded, "Hang Aman upon it." This was done, and Esther's people were saved.

Mardochai succeeded to the honors that had been given Aman. Laws against the Jews were withdrawn, and many turned from adoration of idols to the worship of the true God.

Esther was a type of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who intercedes for us with Almighty God. As Esther was freed from the rigors of the law, so Mary was freed from all stain of original sin, which is the lot of the rest of mankind. As the King said, "This law is not for you, but for all others."



Eleazar was put to death, saying, "O Lord, I am well content to suffer, because I fear Thee."



The seven brothers died valiantly after cruel torture. Their mother was also put to death.

62 (a). Eleazar, Man of Fortitude

FROM Zorobabel to the coming of Christ the Jews were at different times governed by Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, and Rome. Still the high priests were the immediate rulers.

Their foreign masters often treated the Jews very cruelly. One of these harsh rulers was Antiochus, King of Syria. He did not want the Jews to worship God or to obey His Laws. He commanded them to sacrifice to idols. Thousands gave up their lives, rather than break the Laws taught them by their fathers.

One of the martyrs was a 70-year-old man named Eleazar, who was beloved by the Jews for his piety and knowledge of the Law. Antiochus commanded him to eat the flesh of swine, threatening him with

death if he refused. Now at that time the Jewish Law forbade the eating of the flesh of swine. Eleazar preferred dying to offending God. His friends tried to persuade him to yield. They even advised him to eat meats permitted by the Law, if only to make it appear that he had complied with the order of Antiochus.

But Eleazar said, "It does not become my age to pretend. Many of the youth may be deceived through my weakness, because of my desire for a little corruptible life. But by departing manfully out of this life, I shall show myself worthy of my old age, and leave an example of fortitude to youth."

So he was put to death, saying, "O Lord, I am well content to suffer, because I fear Thee."

(b). Martyrdom of Seven Brethren and their Mother

FOR the same offence, a mother and her seven sons underwent a death preceded by the most cruel torture. One after the other, Antiochus had the brothers tortured in the presence of the rest. But all met their death with fortitude. The oldest said, "We are ready to die rather than break the Laws

of God." The second said, "The King of the world will raise us up, who die for His laws, in the resurrection."

The other brothers died as valiantly. Finally the mother, who had trained her sons in this saintly fortitude, was also put to death.



Judas Machabeus took Jerusalem, purified the Temple, and consecrated the altar.

63. Mathathias and Judas Machabeus

DURING the rule of Antiochus, there lived in Judea a priest named Mathathias. He and his five sons were aroused by the evils committed by the King, and resolved to deliver their people from the Syrians.

Mathathias cried out, "Let everyone that has zeal for the Law follow me!" He and his sons fled to the mountains where many Jews joined them. Finally they attacked the army of Antiochus, and destroyed the idols he had set up.

Mathathias was a good father as well as a good leader for his people. When he was near death, he called his sons, to say, "My sons, be zealous for the Law. Give your lives for the Law of your fathers. None who trust in God perish." Then blessing them, he died. All Israel mourned his death, for he was a great leader.

At the death of Mathathias, his son Judas became the leader of the Jews. Because of his bravery, Judas was called Machabeus. He continued the attacks began by his father against the foreign rulers. One after another he defeated the Syrian generals sent by Antiochus. Once a great

army was sent against him, and his men were afraid because they were few. But Judas said, "Fear not; the Lord Himself will overthrow them before our face."

Finally Judas and his followers took Jerusalem. The Syrians had defiled the Temple; and so Judas again purified it and consecrated the altar.

Antiochus was furious that his armies had been defeated and he had lost possession of Judea. Gathering a big army, he led it against Jerusalem. He was firmly resolved to destroy the city and all its people. But on the way he fell from his chariot and hurt himself. He was also stricken with a terrible plague of worms.

Antiochus, knowing that he was being punished by God, pretended to be humble. He even promised to make amends for the evils he had committed. His repentance, however, was insincere. After many terrible torments, he died.

No power on earth can prevail against the works of God. Many powerful rulers have striven to destroy the Church of God, but sooner or later they have been punished by God, as Antiochus was punished.



As the battle raged, a horseman in white, with golden armor and holding a spear, rode before them.

64. The Promise of the Redeemer

AFTER the death of Antiochus, his son tried to reconquer Judea. The Jews under Judas Machabeus set out to oppose him. As the battle raged, there appeared a horseman going before them, clothed in white, with golden armor, and holding a spear. The Jews blessed the merciful Lord, and took on great courage, because they knew they had a helper from heaven. Rushing violently upon the Syrians, they defeated them with great slaughter. The Syrians who were not killed turned and fled in fear.

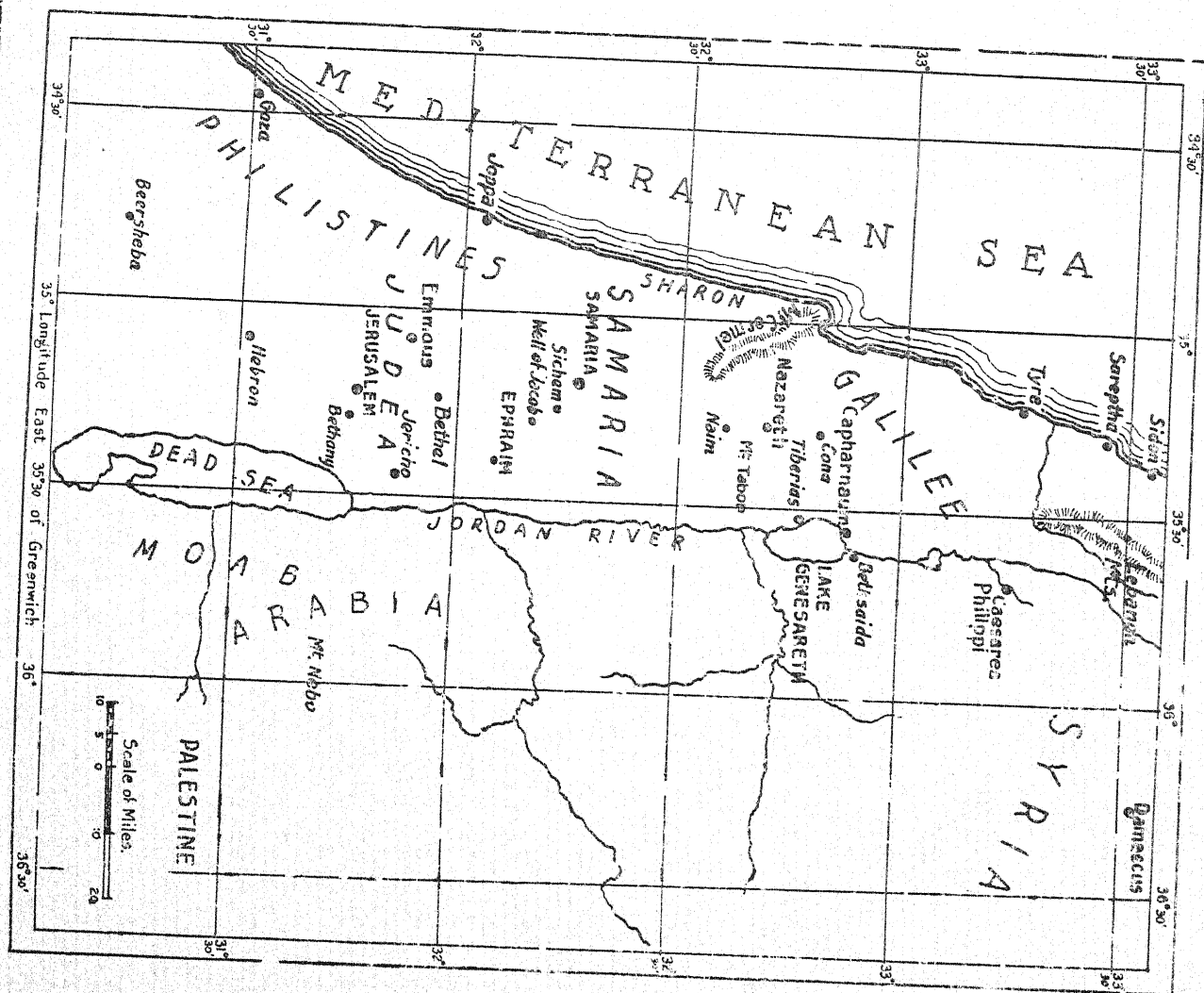
Finally, after many battles, Judas won the freedom of his country from foreigners. At his death his brothers became the rulers.

There was peace in Judea for many years. The land began to flourish once more. But later rulers turned away from God. Many of the people disobeyed God's laws. They said that they believed in the True God. They said that they loved Him. They were very careful to keep the different forms ordered by the Law. But in their hearts they were wicked, and denied God. They did not really love Him.

The Jews forgot the Lord Who had revealed Himself and done wonderful things for them. Outside of Judea, people everywhere also lived in sin. They worshipped idols, and adored false gods. Their hearts were full of wickedness, and they committed much evil. There was need of One to show mankind the true way. There was great need for the fulfillment of the many prophecies, and of the promise made by Jacob to his son Juda. This promise was that a Saviour, the Messias, would come to redeem mankind from sin.

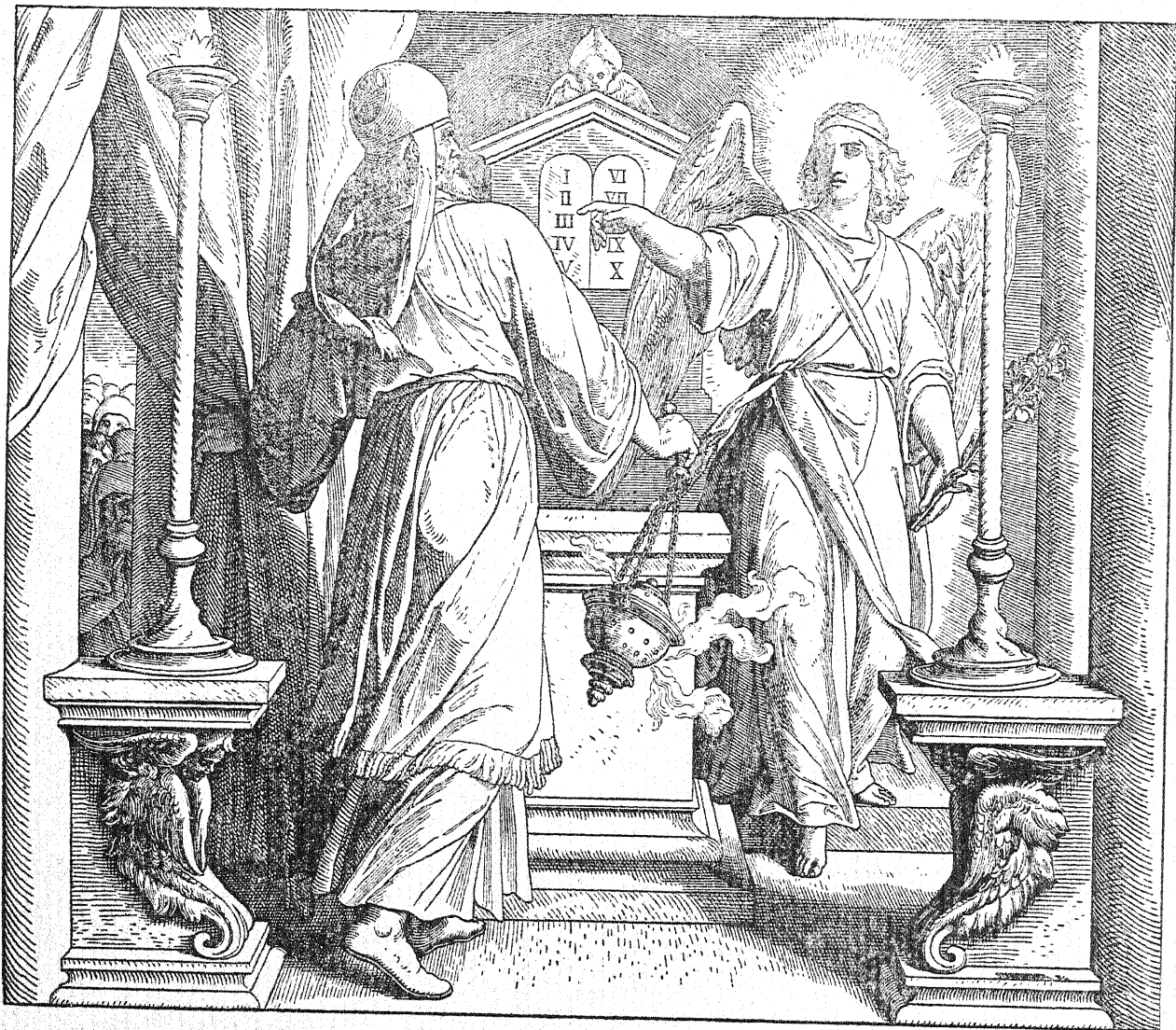
Finally the Jews quarreled even among themselves. The Roman armies came to take control of everything. The Jews became a subject people in their own land.

Herod, a foreigner, was made king. The Kingdom of Judea was no more. No ruler came from the tribe of Judea to rule his people. Jacob had foretold: "The scepter shall not be taken away from Juda till He come that is to be sent and He shall be the Expectation of Nations." This was the time when Our Lord Jesus Christ came to teach, to bless, and to save mankind.



Map of Palestine





The Angel said to Zachary, "God has heard your prayers. Your wife shall bear you a son."

65. The Announcement of St. John's Birth

WHEN Herod was king of Judea, there lived in a little town near Jerusalem a priest named Zachary, and his wife Elizabeth. They were both good and just, obedient to all the Commandments of God.

But Zachary and Elizabeth were already getting very old, and still they had no child. Every day, therefore, they implored God to send them a son.

One day it was Zachary's turn as priest to offer incense in the Temple. He was alone inside, for the people stayed outside and prayed. Taking incense in a golden cup, he poured it out on the altar and burned it.

Suddenly an angel appeared on the right side of the altar. The Angel said to Zachary, "God has heard your prayers. Your wife shall bear you a son, whom you shall call John. He will bring you great joy. He shall be blessed all his life, and do great things for God. He shall convert many people to the Lord their God, making them ready to receive the promised Saviour."

Zachary was filled with doubt at the

words of the Angel. He asked, "How can Elizabeth have a son, when she is already very old?"

The Angel replied, "I am Gabriel, the Angel of God. He sent me to tell you these things. But you have not believed, and therefore you shall be punished. Until all I have told you shall have taken place, you shall not be able to speak."

Outside of the Temple the people were praying. After some time, as Zachary did not come out, they began wondering why he stayed so long inside. At last, however, he came out. But he could not speak to them. He only made signs to tell them that he had seen a vision.

Zachary was dumb till the day of his son's birth, because he had not believed the Angel Gabriel.

The son of Zachary and Elizabeth was to grow up as the Precursor of Our Lord, as one to go before Him. He was to tell the people about the coming of Jesus. He was to be known as John the Baptist.



The Angel greeted Mary: "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women."



Mary answered: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word."

66. The Annunciation

A YOUNG woman named Mary lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. She was the cousin of Elizabeth, Zachary's wife.

Mary was a very holy virgin. She never committed the smallest sin. She was as pure and good as the angels. Mary was married to Joseph, a carpenter. God had chosen him to watch over Mary and protect her.

Six months after appearing to Zachary, the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to the Virgin Mary. Mary was praying and thinking of the goodness of God. Suddenly the Angel appeared. He greeted her in these words: "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women."

Mary was very much surprised. She was humble, and wondered why the Angel spoke to her such words of praise.

The Angel said to her: "God is pleased with your goodness and purity. He has blessed you. The Holy Ghost shall come to you, and you shall have a Son. You shall name Him Jesus. He will be called the Son of God. He will be the great King that

was foretold by the Prophets, and His kingdom will never end."

Mary was obedient. She knew that the Angel was sent by God to tell her His wishes. Therefore she answered, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word."

As soon as Mary gave this answer, she became the Mother of God. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity took to Himself a body and soul like ours and became man. This is a great mystery, something we cannot understand. We believe it only because God teaches it to us through His holy Church. This mystery is called the *Incarnation*. By it the Son of God became Man and dwelt among us.

The coming of the Angel to Mary is called the Annunciation, because the Angel announced the birth of Jesus. The Church celebrates the feast of the Annunciation every year on March 25. It reminds us of the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mother of all Christians who love her.



Elizabeth said: "Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."



Mary stayed with Elizabeth till the birth of
St. John the Baptist.

67. The Visitation

THE Angel Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth, in her old age, was going to have a son. "For nothing is impossible with God," the Angel said.

Mary decided to visit her cousin. She traveled over hills and valleys, to her cousin's home. It was a long and difficult journey. But Mary bore the hardship with patience, because she thought only of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was surprised upon seeing Mary enter the house. A great feeling of happiness came over her. Deep within her she heard the Holy Ghost telling her the wonderful thing God had done to Mary.

Inspired by the Holy Ghost, Elizabeth greeted Mary with these words: "Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

Then Elizabeth asked humbly, "Who am, I, that the Mother of my Lord should come to visit me?"

Upon hearing these words, Mary praised God, in the words of the Magnificat, saying, "My soul magnifies

the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. For He has regarded the humility of His handmaid. From now on all generations shall call me blessed."

The greeting of the Angel Gabriel and the words of Elizabeth form the first part of the "Hail Mary", a prayer that Catholics say three times a day. The last part of that beautiful prayer was added by the Church.

Mary stayed and helped her cousin three months. until the birth of John the Baptist. At last that event took place, as the Angel had promised.

Many relatives and friends came to see the child. They asked what name would be given to him. They thought that he would be called Zachary, after his father.

But when they asked Zachary, he wrote, because he was still dumb, "His name is John." And at once Zachary was able to speak.

The child John grew up and became very holy. He went to live in the desert until his time came to work.



That night Jesus was born. His mother wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him on the straw in a manger. It was the very first Christmas.

68. The Nativity

IN THOSE days the Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar, ruled most of the countries of the world. He also ruled over the Jews. Wishing to know how many people were subject to him, the emperor gave orders that everybody should go to his own town to have his name registered and counted.

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. But since they were of the family of King David, they had to be registered in Bethlehem of Judea, the City of David.

It was December and very cold. Bethlehem was far away from Nazareth. But Mary and Joseph set out to be counted there. They were obedient to the order of the Emperor, for they knew that it was God's will.

After traveling many miles, Mary and Joseph arrived at Bethlehem at night. They were very tired, and needed rest. And so they began at once to look for a place where they could stay that night. But Bethlehem was full of people, many others having arrived to be counted.

Joseph asked at the inn. But the owner turned them away. There was no room for them there.

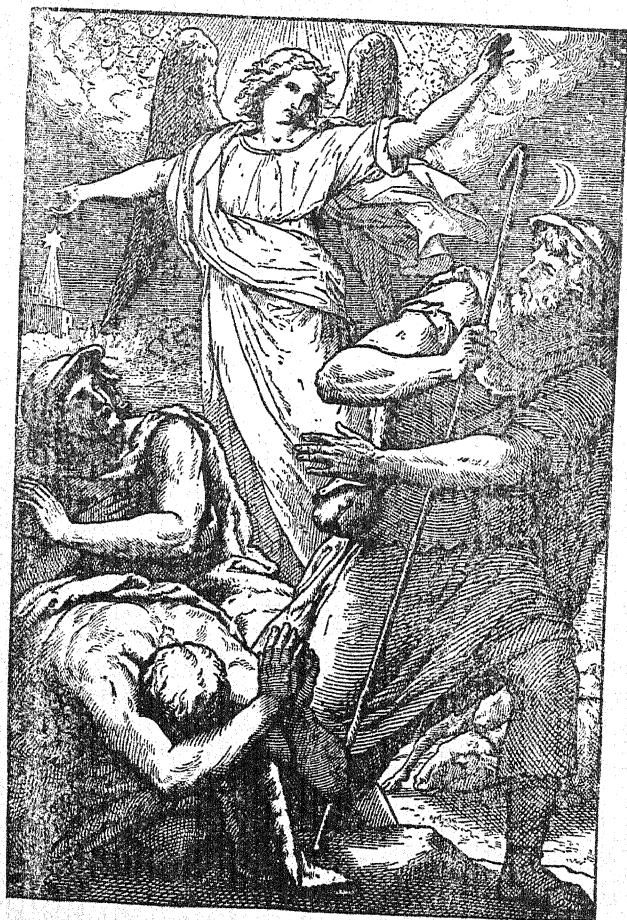
At last Mary and Joseph came to a cave. In bad weather this cave was used as shelter for sheep and cattle. Mary and Joseph took refuge in the cave.

That night Jesus was born. His Mother wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes and laid Him on the straw in a manger. Then she and Joseph adored the Infant Child. This was the very first Christmas.

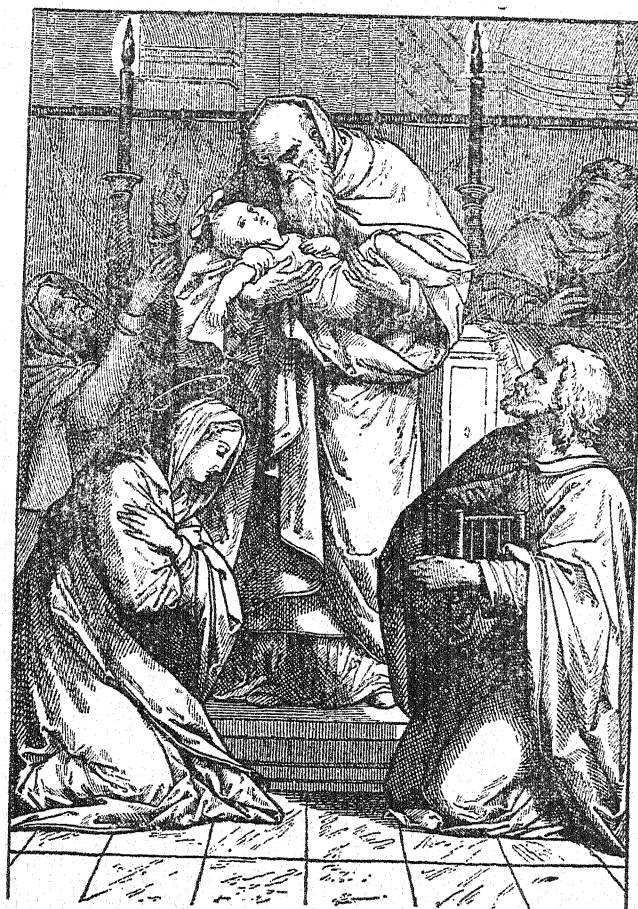
In this way the Son of God was made man. He came down to earth and was born of the Virgin Mary. When He came, no one received Him except Mary and Joseph. He was born among lowly animals, and put in a manger.

For love of us, Jesus, true God, wanted to be born in a humble place. In this way He shows us how He loves humility.

Christmas, one of the most beautiful feast of the year, is celebrated in memory of the Birth of Our Lord.



The Angel said, "I bring you joyful news.
A Saviour is born, Who is Christ the Lord."



After forty days, Mary took Jesus to the Temple
in Jerusalem, to offer Him to God.

69 (a). The Shepherds

IN THE town of Bethlehem everything was quiet. All the people were asleep. No one knew of the wonderful thing that had happened.

In the hills outside of Bethlehem shepherds were watching their flocks. Suddenly there was a brilliant light. The shepherds saw an angel appear before them, and were afraid. But the angel said, "Fear not. For I bring you joyful news. A Saviour is born, Christ the Lord. Go and see Him. You will find the Child in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

A multitude of angels then appeared, praising God and singing, "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

They filled the still night with the

sweet sound of their joyful message to earth. After a while the angels disappeared, the brilliant light died out, and the hills were quiet and dark once more.

The shepherds looked at each other in wonder. They said, "Let us go to see our new-born Lord."

They hastened to Bethlehem. There they found the cave where Mary and Joseph had taken shelter. Entering softly and with great devotion, they saw Mary, Joseph, and the newly-born Child.

The shepherds knelt and adored Jesus. Then they went home, praising and thanking God. To all the friends and neighbors that they met they told all the wonderful things that they had heard and seen that night.

(b). The Presentation

AFTER forty days, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Mary offered Him to God, in obedience to the commandment of the Law.

In the Temple Mary and Joseph met a holy man named Simeon. He had gone there that day because the Holy Spirit had told him he would see the Saviour

that had been promised. Simeon took Jesus in his arms, and thanked God for letting him see the Redeemer.

In the Temple also was Anna, a very old prophetess. How happy she was to see Jesus! She told everyone that He was the Saviour, the Messiah long promised and awaited.



The three wise men offered Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

70. The Three Wise Men

AT THAT time in the East, far from Jerusalem, there lived three wise men. One night they saw a new star in the heavens, brighter and more beautiful than all the other stars.

The wise men had heard that a star was to be the sign of the birth of the Redeemer. And so taking camels and many gifts, they set out to find the Saviour that was newly born. In their journey they were guided by the star until they reached Jerusalem.

Then the star disappeared. Anxious to find the new-born Child, the wise men asked of every one they met, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to adore Him."

King Herod heard about the wise men's errand, and became very jealous. He was afraid that the new King would take away his kingdom from him. He called the priests and asked them where the promised Redeemer was to be born.

They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea."

King Herod sent for the wise men and told them to look for the Child. He said, "When you have found Him, come and tell me. I also wish to adore Him." Herod said this only to find out where the Child was. He did not want to adore Jesus, but to kill Him.

The wise men left Jerusalem. Again the star appeared. It guided them to the house in Bethlehem where the Child was. When they saw Jesus, the wise men fell on their knees and adored Him. They offered Him all the gifts that they had brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

That night, as they slept, God warned them not to tell Herod where Jesus was. And so next day they left Bethlehem and returned by another road to the East.

This event teaches us that we must bring our best gifts to Jesus. From Him we have received everything. To Him therefore, we must return everything. We must even suffer and make sacrifice for His love, as He suffered and died for us.



So Joseph arose, took Mary and the little Jesus, and fled to Egypt.

71. The Flight Into Egypt

KING Herod waited for the wise men to return and tell him where the newly-born King was. When they did not come back, he was very angry.

From what the wise men had told him, Herod knew that the Child could not be more than two years old. He ordered his soldiers to go to Bethlehem and kill all the male children, of two years and under. In this way he thought that Jesus, too, would be killed.

The soldiers obeyed the wicked Herod. That day there was great sorrow in Bethlehem. The soldiers went to each house, took the boy babies, and put them to death.

These children so cruelly killed are called by the Church the Holy Innocents. Every year there is a day set aside in memory of their death. This feast is celebrated on December 28.

But the soldiers of Herod did not kill Jesus. In the night an angel had appeared to Joseph and said, "Arise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there till I tell you to come

back. Herod wants to kill the Child."

And so Joseph rose, took Mary and the little Jesus, and fled to Egypt. In this way Jesus was saved.

A few years after the murder of the Holy Innocents, King Herod was stricken with a very terrible disease, and died in torments. His son, Archelaus, succeeded him as king.

Then an angel appeared again to Joseph. He said, "Rise, take the Child and His Mother, and return to the land of Israel. Those who sought to kill the Child are now dead."

The Holy Family went back to the land of Israel. Joseph however was afraid that Archelaus might harm Jesus, and so he did not go to live in Bethlehem or Judea. He took Jesus instead to Galilee, to his old home in Nazareth.

There Jesus grew up and spent all His childhood and youth, till He began His public life. He was obedient to His mother and to Joseph. By this life He teaches us the great virtue of obedience to our parents and superiors, and so to God.

B5



Jesus was seated among the wise men whose duty it was to study and teach the Law.



In Nazareth Jesus was obedient to His mother and to St. Joseph.

72. The Child Jesus in the Temple

IN THOSE days, all the Jews that could do so went every year to celebrate the Feast of the Pasch in Jerusalem. This feast was to commemorate the departure of the Israelites out of Egypt.

When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took Him with them to spend the Pasch in Jerusalem.

When the festival was over, Mary and Joseph prepared to return to Nazareth. They went with many relatives and friends who had also spent several days in Jerusalem.

As they traveled, Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was with the other members of their company. But when evening came, they did not see Jesus. They asked all their traveling companions, but no one had seen the Child.

Mary and Joseph were very much troubled. They returned at once to Jerusalem to look for the lost Child.

For two days they looked for Jesus. They went everywhere, but could not find Him. They almost gave up hope of ever seeing Him again.

Then on the third day Mary and Joseph went up to the Temple. There they found Jesus seated among the wise men whose duty it was to study the Law and teach it to the people. Although they were the wisest men in all Judea, they were full of wonder and admiration at the questions and answers of Jesus. They could not believe that One so young could have so much wisdom.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were very happy. Mary came near to her Son and said softly, "Son, why have You left us? We have been looking for You, sorrowing."

But Jesus answered, "Why did you look for Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Then Jesus arose and left the Temple with His mother and St. Joseph. They all returned to Nazareth.

By this event Jesus showed us that we must love God above all things. To do His will, we must even leave those dearest to us.



St. John preached, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."



When Jesus was baptized, the heavens were opened. The Holy Ghost came down in the form of a dove.

73. The Baptism of Jesus

AT THAT time John, the son of Zachary and Elizabeth, was thirty years old. From childhood he had been living alone in the desert, eating nothing but locusts and honey.

John was called by the Spirit of God to prepare for the coming of the Saviour. He therefore left the desert and began preaching.

John went near the Jordan river, to a place where many people going to Jerusalem or leaving it passed. He preached, crying to all, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Do penance for your sins."

When the people asked John what they should do, he told them to share their goods with the poor. He said that the tax-gatherers should take only what was their right. He advised the soldiers not to accuse anyone falsely.

John baptized in the Jordan all who were penitent. This was a sign of the purification of their souls. John is called the Baptist, because he baptized many to prepare them for the Lord.

Many who heard John thought him a

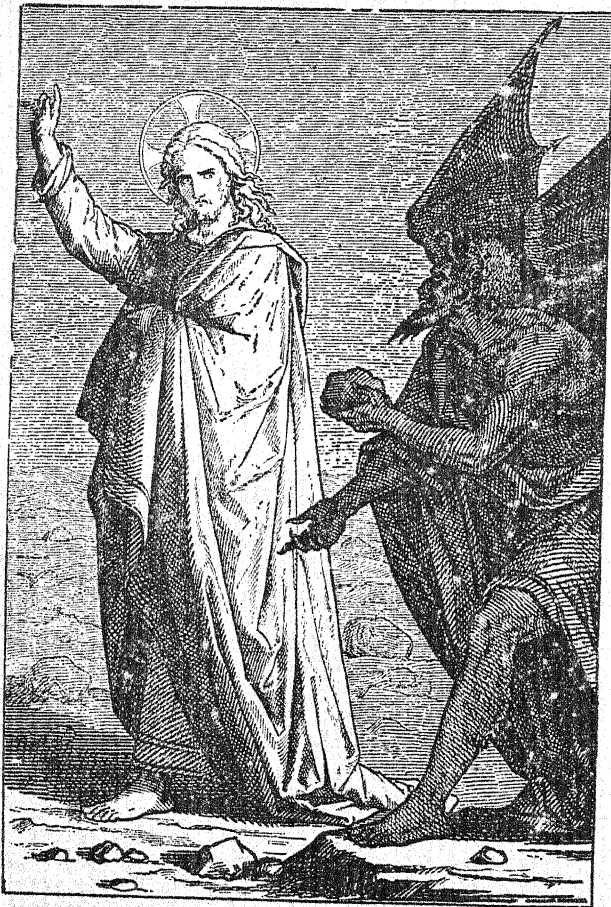
great prophet. Others believed him to be the promised Redeemer. But John said, "I baptize you with water. One will come Who is mightier than I, Whose shoe-string I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost." In these words he spoke of Jesus.

One day Jesus Himself came to John to be baptized. John knew at once that Jesus was the Son of God. He refused to baptize Him, saying, "I ought to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

But Jesus answered, "Let it be done so, now. For we must do everything that My Father wills." So John baptized Jesus in the Jordan.

When He was baptized, Jesus went out of the water. At once the heavens were opened. The Holy Ghost came down in the form of a dove, and rested on Jesus. From heaven the Father spoke, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

When we are baptized, we become children of God and members of the Catholic Church. The Holy Ghost descends upon us. Original sin and all other sins we may have are washed away.



Jesus answered, "Man lives not by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from God."



Jesus replied, "Begone, Satan. You shall adore
only the Lord your God."

74. Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil

AFTER Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him out into the desert near the Jordan. There He fasted forty days and forty nights. During all that time He ate nothing, and became hungry.

Then the devil came to tempt Him, saying, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

Jesus answered, "Man lives not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God."

The devil took Jesus up to Jerusalem, and put Him down on the highest point of the Temple. Far below them they could see the crowds going back and forth about their work. The devil said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written that God will give His angels charge over You. They will bear You up, and keep You from dashing Your feet against the stones."

But Jesus answered, "It is also written that you shall not tempt the Lord your God."

The devil, however, was not to be

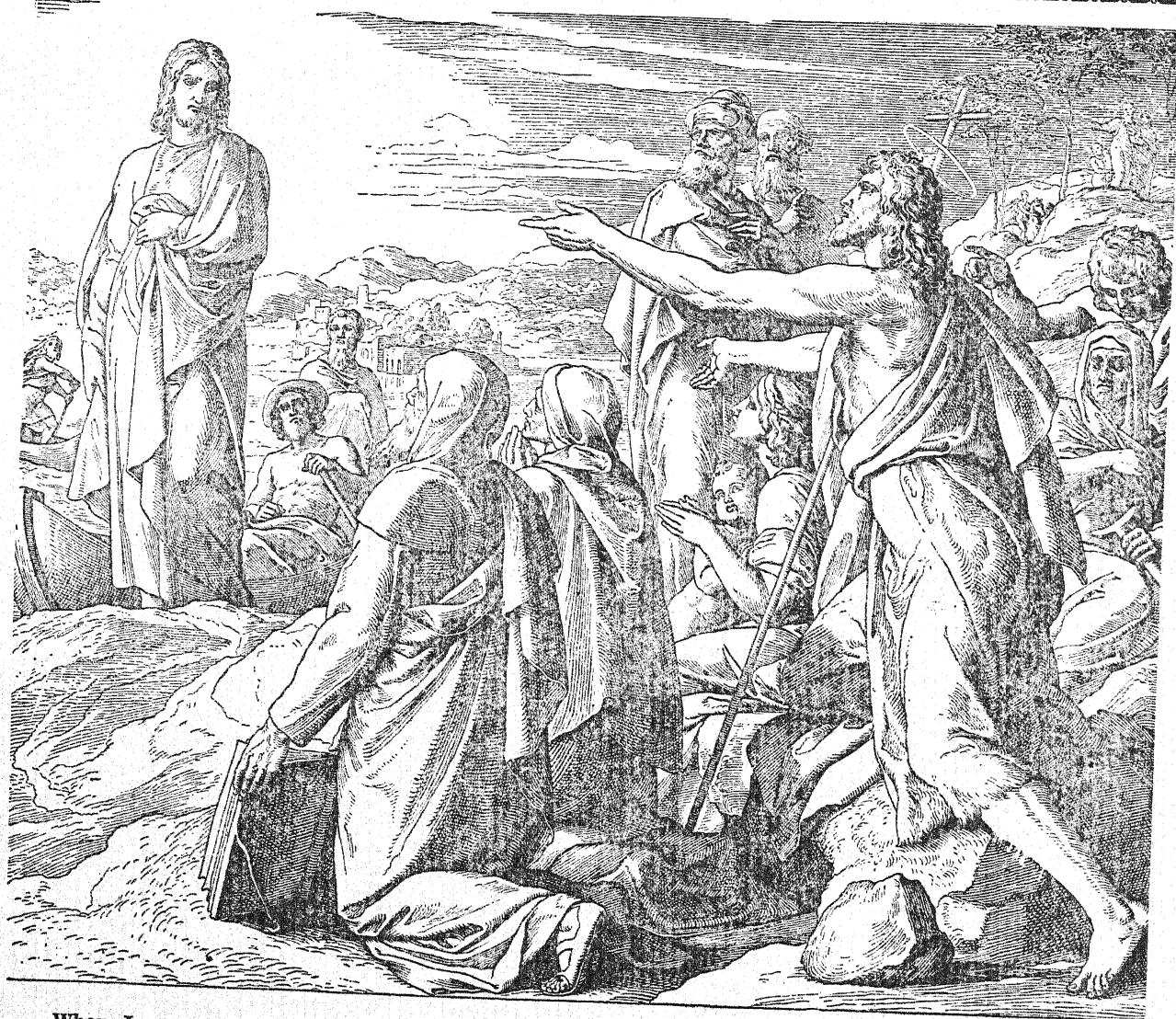
discouraged so easily. Once more he tried to tempt Jesus. Taking Him to a very high mountain, he showed Him all the great kingdoms of the world, and all their glory. He said, "I will give You all these kingdoms if You will fall down and adore me."

Then Jesus replied, "Begone, Satan. You shall adore only the Lord your God. You shall serve Him alone."

Defeated in his purposes, the devil left Jesus. Angels came to serve Him.

Jesus left the desert and returned to the country about the Jordan. He passed by the place where John was preaching and baptizing.

Seeing Jesus coming, John turned to the crowds around him, pointed to Jesus, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world. This is He of Whom I said, 'After me will come a Man Who is greater than I, because He is before me.' I baptize with water, so that He may be known. I give testimony that this is the Son of God."



When Jesus passed by, John the Baptist pointed to Him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

75. The First Disciples

THE next day John was talking to two young men on the banks of the Jordan. He was teaching them what to do in order to please God. At the moment Jesus passed by. John pointed to Him and said to the young men, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

At these words, the young men, Andrew and John, left the Baptist and followed Jesus. When Jesus heard them following Him, He turned and asked, "What are you seeking?"

The two did not know what to say. They asked, "Master, where do You live?" Jesus replied, "Come and see." Andrew and John stayed with Jesus all that day, and Jesus taught them.

Later Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus. Jesus said to Simon, "You are Simon Bar-Jona. You shall be called Cephas, that is to say, Peter, a rock."

But Peter did not understand. He did not know then that he was to be the head of the Church founded by Jesus.

Next day, Jesus got ready to go to Galilee. Seeing a man named Philip, He

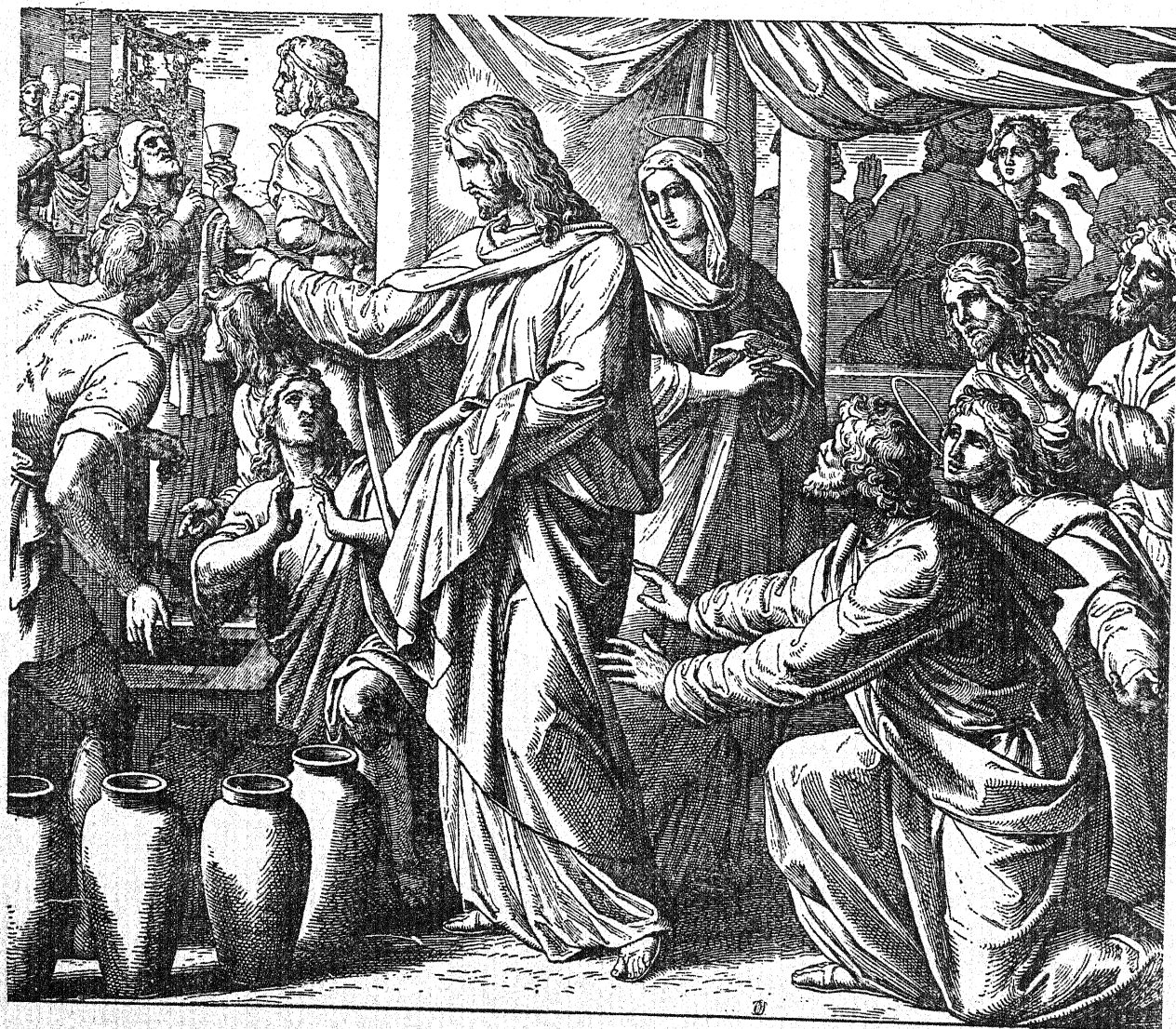
looked at him and said, "Follow Me." Philip at once obeyed, and followed Jesus.

Philip had a friend called Nathanael and went to find him. He said to Nathanael, "We have found Him of Whom Moses and the prophets wrote. He is Jesus of Nazareth." Nathanael laughed and said, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see."

So Nathanael went with Philip to Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael, He said, "Here comes a true Israelite, in whom there is no malice." Nathanael in surprise asked, "How do You know me?"

Jesus replied, "Before Philip called you, as you sat under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael was filled with wonder and belief. He cried out, "Master, You are the Son of God." Jesus answered, "Because of what I said, you believe. Greater things than this you shall see."

These men — Andrew, John, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael — were the first disciples of Jesus, and were later on chosen by Him as Apostles.



Jesus said, "Draw out and carry it to the chief steward."

76. Jesus Works His First Miracle

JESUS and His disciples went to a wedding feast in the town of Cana in Galilee. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was also present at the feast.

There were so many guests that after a while all the wine was drunk. The bridegroom was troubled, because his guests had no wine to drink. Taking pity on him, Mary said gently to Jesus, "Son, they have no wine."

Jesus answered, "What is it to you or to Me? My hour has not yet come."

But Mary knew how Jesus loved all men. She knew that He helped anyone in trouble. Sure that He would grant her prayer, she said to the waiters, "Do whatever He tells you."

Six water-pots were standing in the room. Calling the waiters, Jesus said, "Take those water-pots and fill them with water."

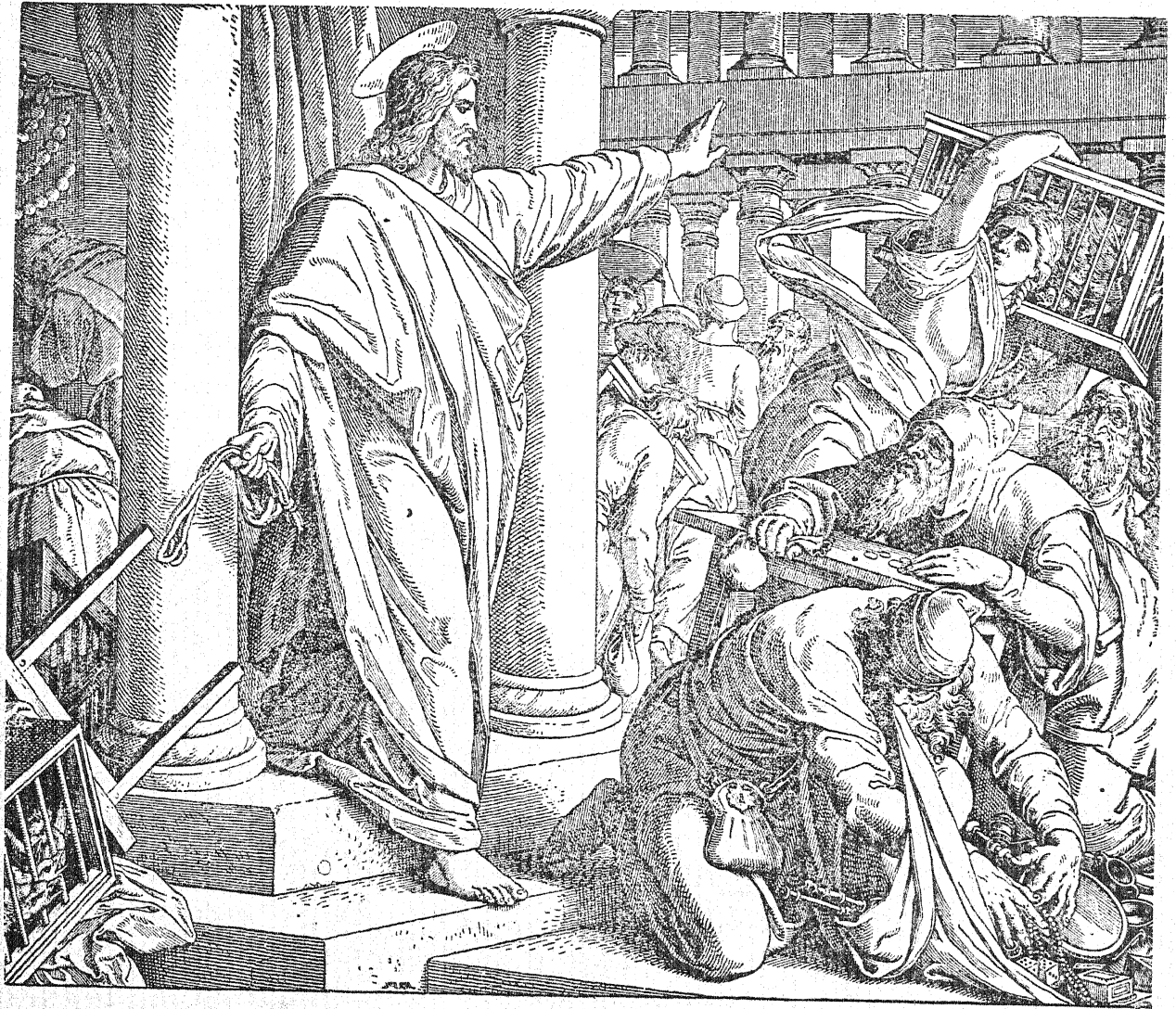
The waiters obeyed at once, and filled the pots with water up to the very brim. Jesus said, "Pour out some of what is in the pots, and carry it to the chief steward."

The steward tasted what the waiters brought him. It was very good wine. How surprised he was! Not knowing where the wine had come from, he said to the bridegroom, "When there is a feast, every man serves the good wine first. But you have saved the best wine for the last, and have served it only now."

In this way Jesus worked His first miracle, at Cana in Galilee. He changed water into wine, at His Mother's request. By this we learn how much Jesus loves Mary. We, too, may obtain graces from Him, if we ask through His Mother and our Mother, Mary.

The disciples saw the power of Jesus, and their faith in Him increased. This was the first of the many miracles Jesus worked, to prove His divinity.

From that time His fame spread. Many came to seek Him — the lame, the blind, the dumb, the leprous. Everywhere in Judea and Galilee and other places around, Jesus went, healing those who believed in Him. Even the dead were brought back to life.



Jesus said, "Do not make My Father's house a market-place."

77. Jesus Drives the Sellers Out from the Temple

IN THE Temple at Jerusalem the Jews were going to celebrate the yearly Pasch. With His disciples Jesus went there to attend the feast. When Jesus was about to enter the Temple, He saw men selling oxen, sheep, and doves for the sacrifices. Also present were many money-changers.

Jesus saw the buying and selling, and heard the great noise made. How sad and angry He was! Taking a whip of cords, He drove away the sellers, and overturned the tables of the money-changers. He said to those that sold doves, "Take away those things. Do not make of My Father's house a market-place."

The Jews angrily asked Jesus, "By what right do You do these things? Show us a sign."

Jesus replied, "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He was speaking of His own Body, but the Jews did not then understand Him.

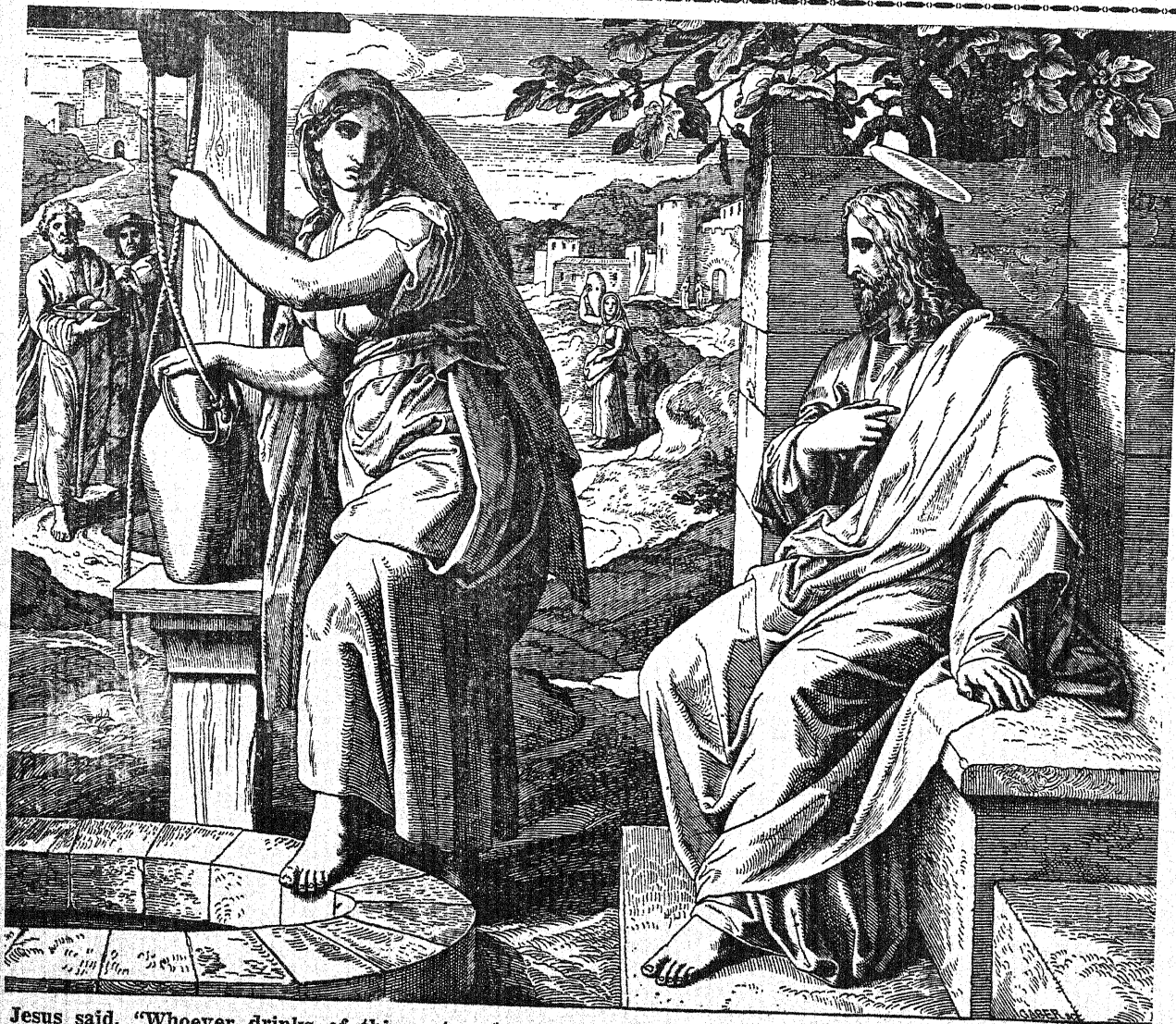
The Pharisees and Scribes began to hate Jesus. The Pharisees were those Jews who had studied the Law, but obeyed only its form and letter. They were hypocrites.

Although they did not love God, they thought themselves much better and wiser than other men. The Scribes explained the Law to the people.

The Pharisees and Scribes were jealous of Jesus because the people loved Him. He was everybody's Friend. They found fault with Him because He went with publicans and sinners, although they knew well He did so only to make these good.

The publicans were the collectors, or tax-gatherers, for the Roman emperor. They were often harsh in their tax-gathering. The Jews disliked them very much.

But Jesus was kind to those whom every one knew to be sinners. He was kind even to Samaritans, and other tribes despised by the Jews. At that time the Jews believed it wrong to be friends with other tribes. They thought that the Jews were the only worthy people. Jesus however went with Samaritans as well as with Jews. The Pharisees came to hate Him so much that they planned to put Him to death.



Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of this water shall be thirsty again. But he who drinks of the water I give shall never thirst."

78. Jesus Speaks to the Samaritan Woman

ON THE way from Judea to Galilee, Jesus and His disciples passed through Samaria. They stopped at the place where Jacob's well was.

Jesus was very tired. He sat down to rest at the well, while His disciples went to buy food in the city. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water at the well.

Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

The woman was surprised. She asked, "Why is it that You, a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan?"

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift of God, and Who asks you for a drink, you would ask Him, and He would give you living water."

The woman was surprised at this answer. She said, "The well is deep and You have nothing with which to draw water. How then can You get living water?"

Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of this water shall be thirsty again. But he who drinks of the water I give shall never thirst."

The woman replied, "Give me this water, then, that I may never be thirsty."

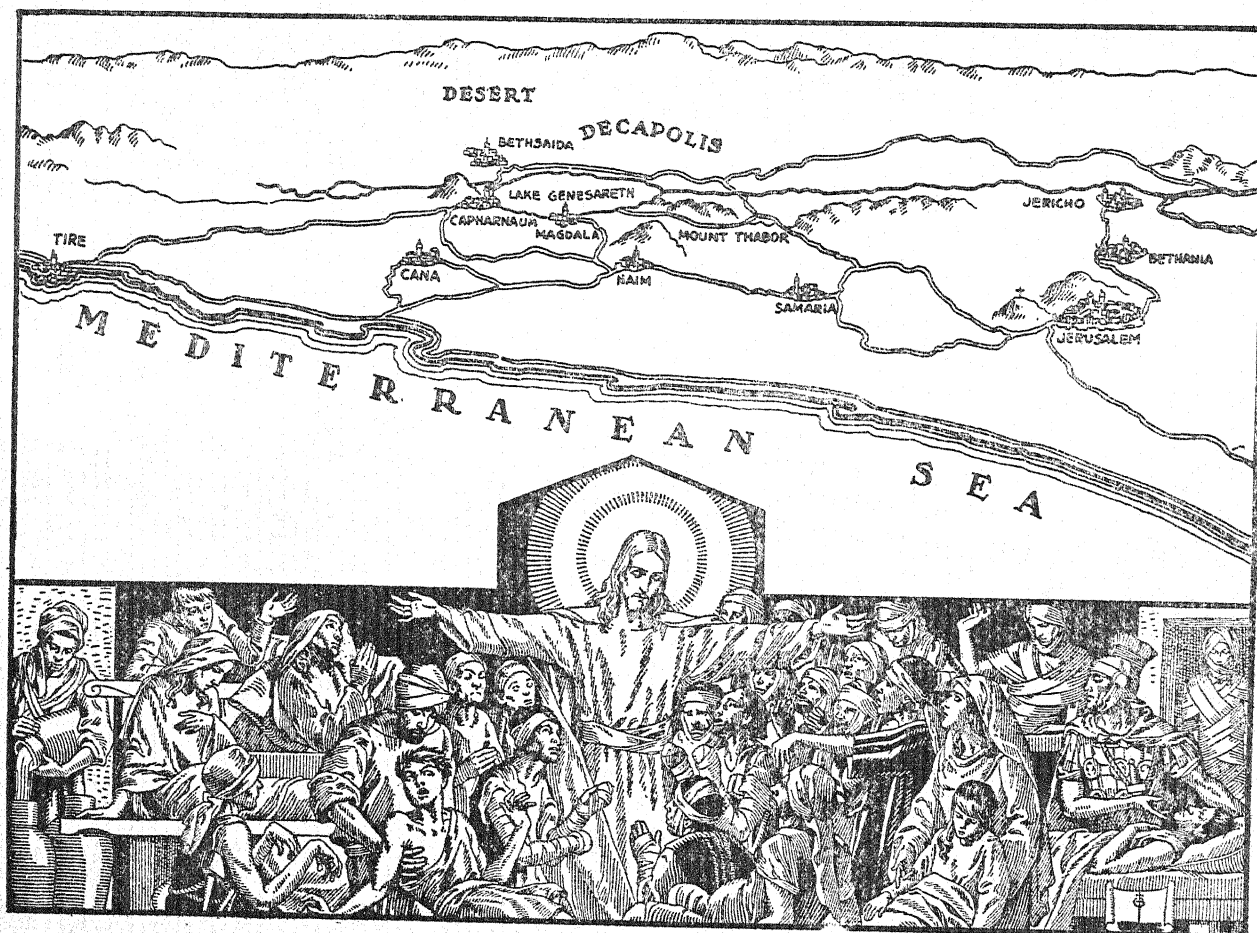
So Jesus told her that He was the promised Messias. He also told her the sins that she had committed. She was surprised, because He knew the sins that she thought were her secret.

When the Samaritan woman returned to the city, she told the people that Jesus was Christ. She told them that He could even tell her secret sins.

In the meantime the disciples of Jesus had returned. They urged Him to eat some food. But He said, "My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me."

The Samaritans came from the city, and asked Jesus to stay with them. He remained two days, teaching them. The people came to believe in Jesus. They said to the Samaritan woman, "We know that He is indeed the Saviour of the world."

From Samaria, Jesus returned to Galilee. There He often taught the people from the synagogues. These were the places where the Jews went to worship, and to hear the explanation of the Law by the priests.



Jesus travelled throughout the country. He cured all the sick that came to Him and believed in Him.

79. Jesus Works Many Miracles

ON THE Sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue of Nazareth, where He has grown up as a Child. He announced to the people that He was the Messiah, but they would not believe Him.

Jesus said, "No prophet is believed in his own country." The people were so angry that they took Jesus to the top of a hill, in order to throw Him down. But He escaped from them safely.

At Capharnaum one day, a certain ruler came to Jesus. He asked Him to heal his son, who was dying.

Jesus answered, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you do not believe."

But the sad father said, "Come down, before my son dies." Jesus therefore said, "Go, your son lives."

The ruler believed Jesus, and returned home. His servants met him on the way and told him that his son was already well.

The ruler asked, "At what time did my son get better?"

The servants replied, "Yesterday, at the seventh hour, the fever left him." The ruler

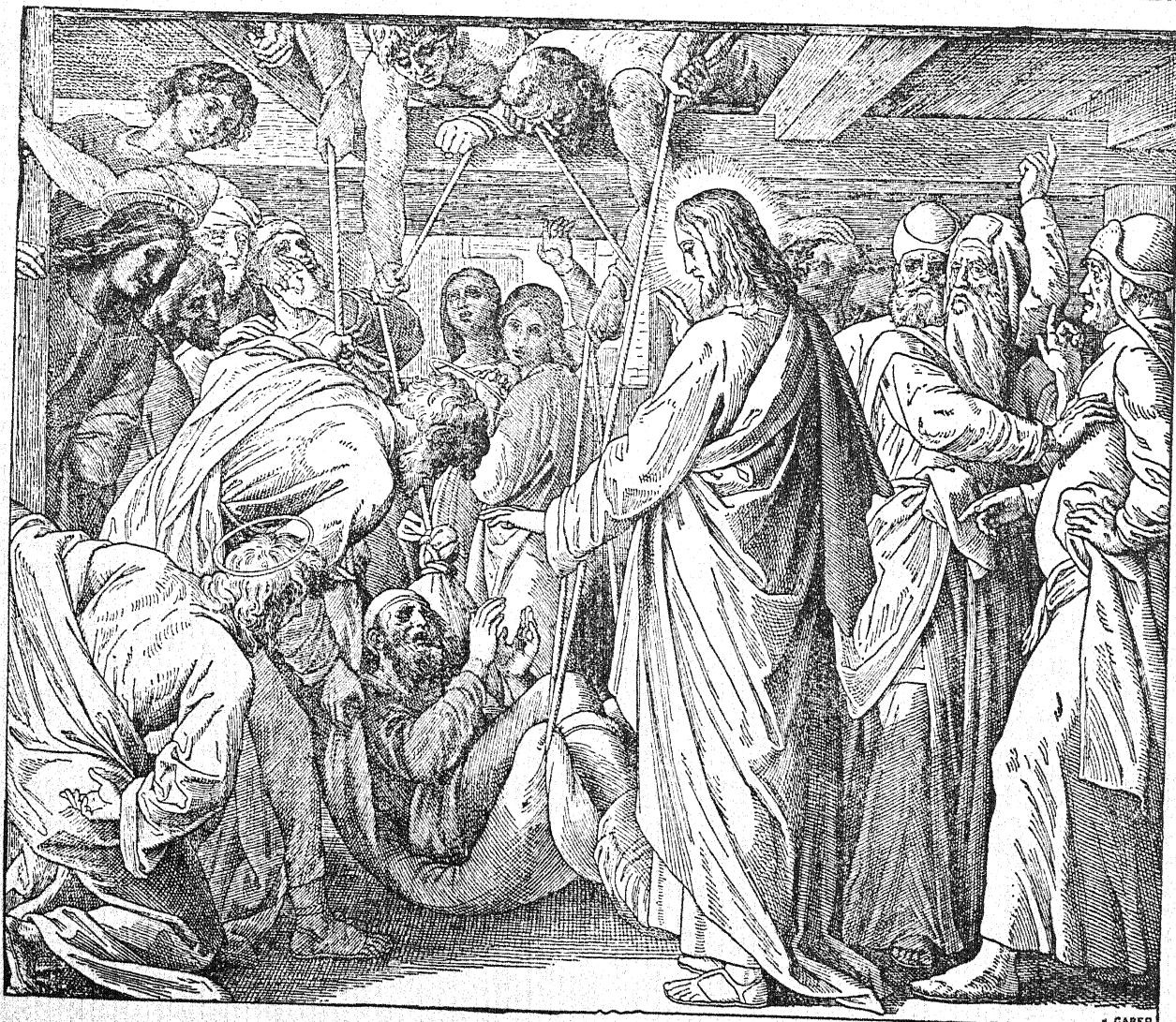
gave thanks to God, for it was at that hour that Jesus had said, "Go, your son lives."

One Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue at Capharnaum. As He taught those present, a man among His hearers cried out like a madman, for he had an evil spirit in him.

Jesus said to the spirit, "Come out of him." The devil fled, and the man was cured. All were surprised and said, "Do even evil spirits obey Him?"

Leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with His disciples to the house of Simon Peter. The mother-in-law of Simon was sick with a high fever. Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up. At once the fever left her. She stood up and began to wait on the guests. After sunset, many sick were brought to Jesus. He laid His hands on every one of them and cured them.

Jesus travelled about throughout the country, preaching. He taught people what to do in order to please God. He cured all the sick that came to Him and that believed in Him.



Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

80. Jesus Heals the Man Sick with Palsy

ONE DAY in Capharnaum Jesus was teaching in a house. So many people came to listen to Him that the house was crowded. There was no room left even at the door.

Four men arrived, carrying a sick man lying in a bed. The man could not move, because he was very sick with palsy. His whole body was paralyzed.

The four men wanted to ask Jesus to heal the sick man, and tried to find a way into the room where Jesus was. But the crowd was so great that they could not get into the room. Therefore, taking the sick one up to the roof, the men made an opening into the room where Jesus was teaching. Then through this opening they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

Jesus saw the faith of the four men and of the paralytic. He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some of the scribes present heard what Jesus said, and began to find fault with Him. They thought, "He is speaking blasphemy. Who can forgive sins except God alone?"

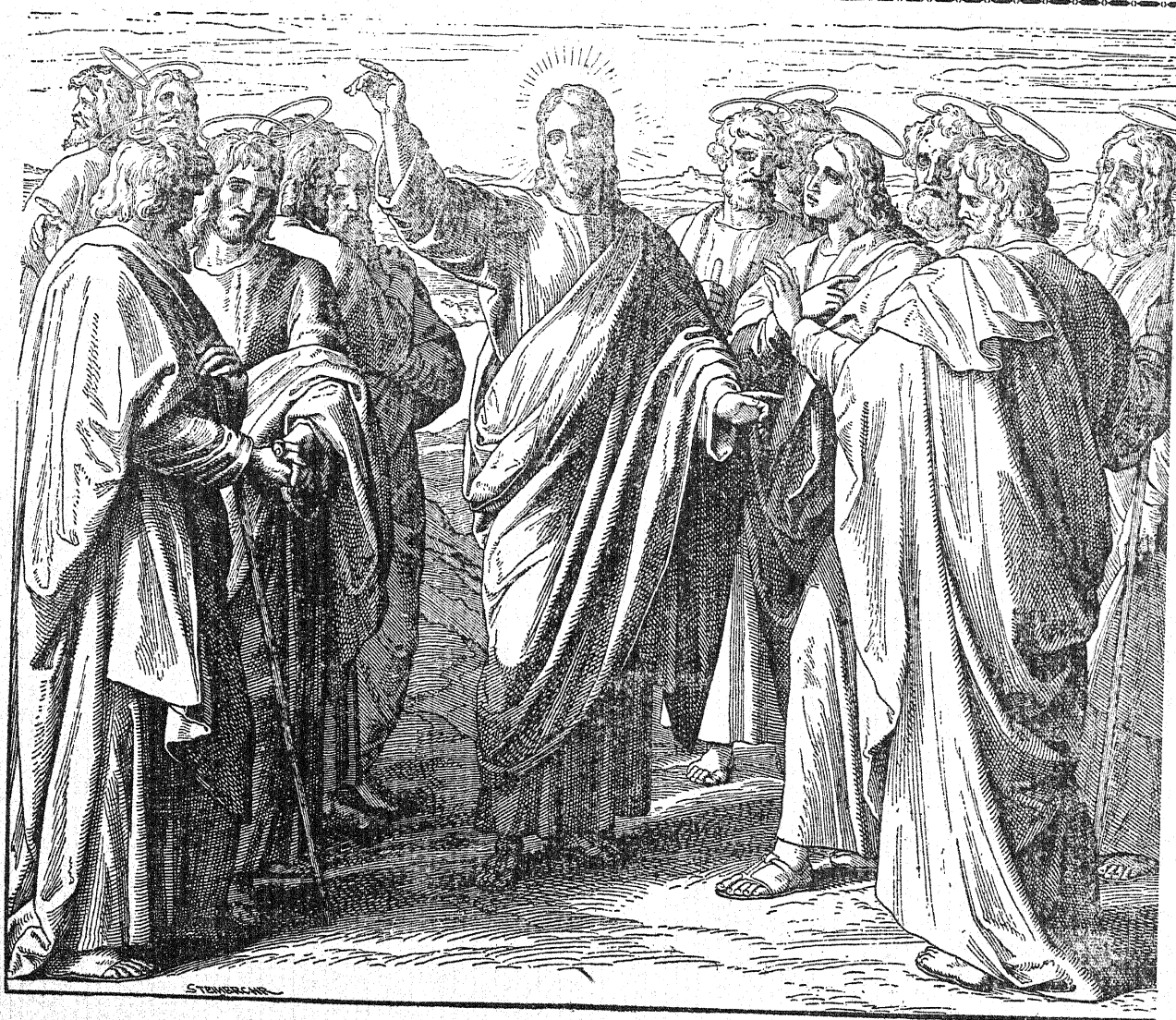
Jesus saw the thoughts of the scribes. He rebuked them, saying, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed, and walk?' But I will show you that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."

Then, turning to the paralytic, Jesus said, "Arise. Take up your bed, and go home."

Immediately the sick man arose. He took up his bed, and went out of the house, in the sight of all the people gathered there.

Everybody was filled with wonder at this miracle. It showed them the power of Jesus to do what God alone can do.

This miracle, and the words of Jesus, show us, too, the power of God to forgive sins. Later on, Jesus left to His Church the Sacrament of Confession, for the forgiveness of sins. He gave His disciples this great and holy power. Their successors, the Bishops and the priests of the Catholic Church, act in the name of Jesus, and by His order, when they use this power of forgiving sins.



Jesus said, "Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves."

81. Jesus Chooses His Twelve Apostles

JESUS went up to a mountain to pray. There He stayed all night, praying. In the morning He called His disciples and chose twelve from among them.

These were the ones chosen: Simon Peter and Andrew his brother; James and John, the sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew, who was also called Nathanael; Matthew and Thomas; James and Jude Thaddeus, sons of Alpheus; Simon Zelotes, and Judas Iscariot. These twelve men were called Apostles. To them Jesus gave more power than to His other disciples.

Jesus was sorry for the crowds that followed Him, because they seemed like sheep without a shepherd. He said to His disciples, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He may send laborers into His harvest."

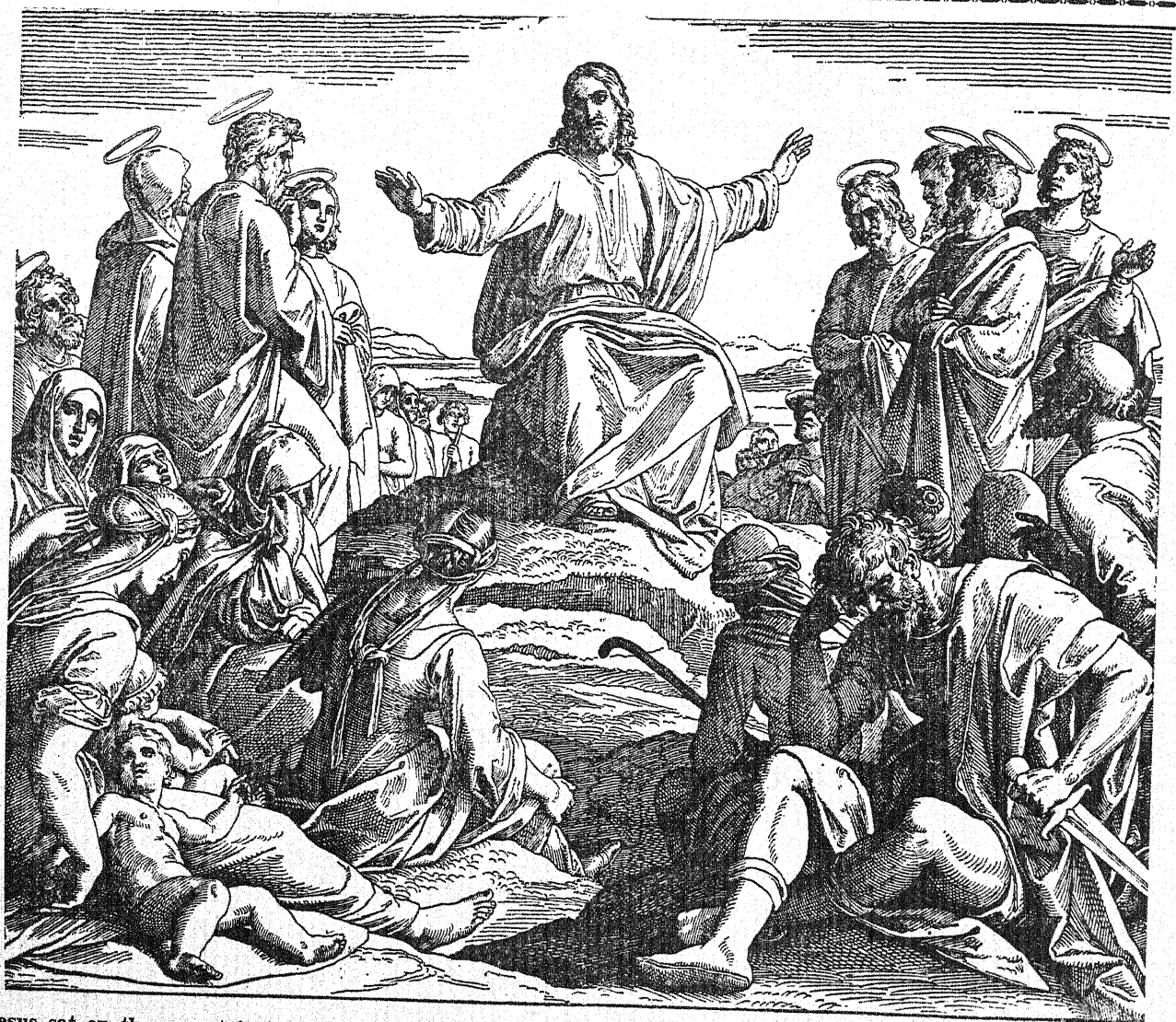
After a night of prayer, Jesus called the twelve Apostles. He said, "Go and teach the Children of Israel. Say that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

Jesus gave them power to cure the sick,

heal lepers, cast out devils, and raise the dead to life. He said, "Freely have you received, freely give. Do not carry any money with you. The worker is worthy of his wages. Wherever you go, live with those who are worthy. When you enter a house, say 'Peace be to this house!' If the house is worthy, peace shall come to it. If any town or house refuses to receive you, leave that place. Shake off its dust from your feet."

Later Jesus also sent seventy-two other disciples two by two into the cities and villages to preach the Kingdom of God. He said, "Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves. Men will persecute you. They will scourge you. You will be hated for My Name's sake. But the disciple is not above the Master. If they persecute Me, how much more will they persecute you! Do not fear, however, for they can only kill the body. Rather be afraid of Him who can destroy both body and soul in hell."

Most of the disciples of Jesus died as martyrs.



Jesus sat on the mountainside and taught the people. He said, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

82. The Sermon on the Mount

JESUS went up a mountain. A great number of people followed Him. He taught them as He sat on mountainside. This is part of what Our Lord said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall have their fill.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

"Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and speak all that is evil against you untruly, for My sake. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven."

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law. I came not to destroy, but to fulfill. Love your enemies, and do good to them that hate you. For if you love only those that love you, what merit have you? Do not the heathen do the same?

"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Judge not, that you may not be judged. Why do you see the mote in your brother's eye, but do not think of the beam in your own? Take first the beam from your own eye, and then you will see clearly enough to take the mote out of your brother's eye.

"Beware of false prophets. They come to you in the clothing of sheep, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. By their fruits you shall know them. Every good tree brings forth good fruit, and every evil tree brings forth evil fruit. Not every one that says to me, 'Lord, Lord', shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. He that does the will of My Father shall enter into the kingdom of heaven."

The blessings pronounced by Jesus on the Mount are called "The Eight Beatitudes".



Jesus touched the coffin and said to the dead man, "Young man, arise."

83 (a). Jesus Cures the Centurion's Servant

IN THOSE days the Roman soldiers were under officers called centurions. The centurion at Capharnaum had a servant that he loved very much. One day, this servant fell sick, and was at the point of death.

The centurion went to Jesus and said, "Lord, my servant is very sick at home."

Jesus replied, "I will come and cure him." But the centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof. But only say the word.

and my servant shall be healed. For I also have men under me. When I command them they obey at once."

Surprised and pleased at the centurion's reply, Jesus said to those that followed Him, "I have not found so great faith in Israel." To the centurion He said, "Go, and as you have believed, let it be done." The centurion's servant was healed.

In this we are taught to pray to Jesus with great faith, in all our needs.

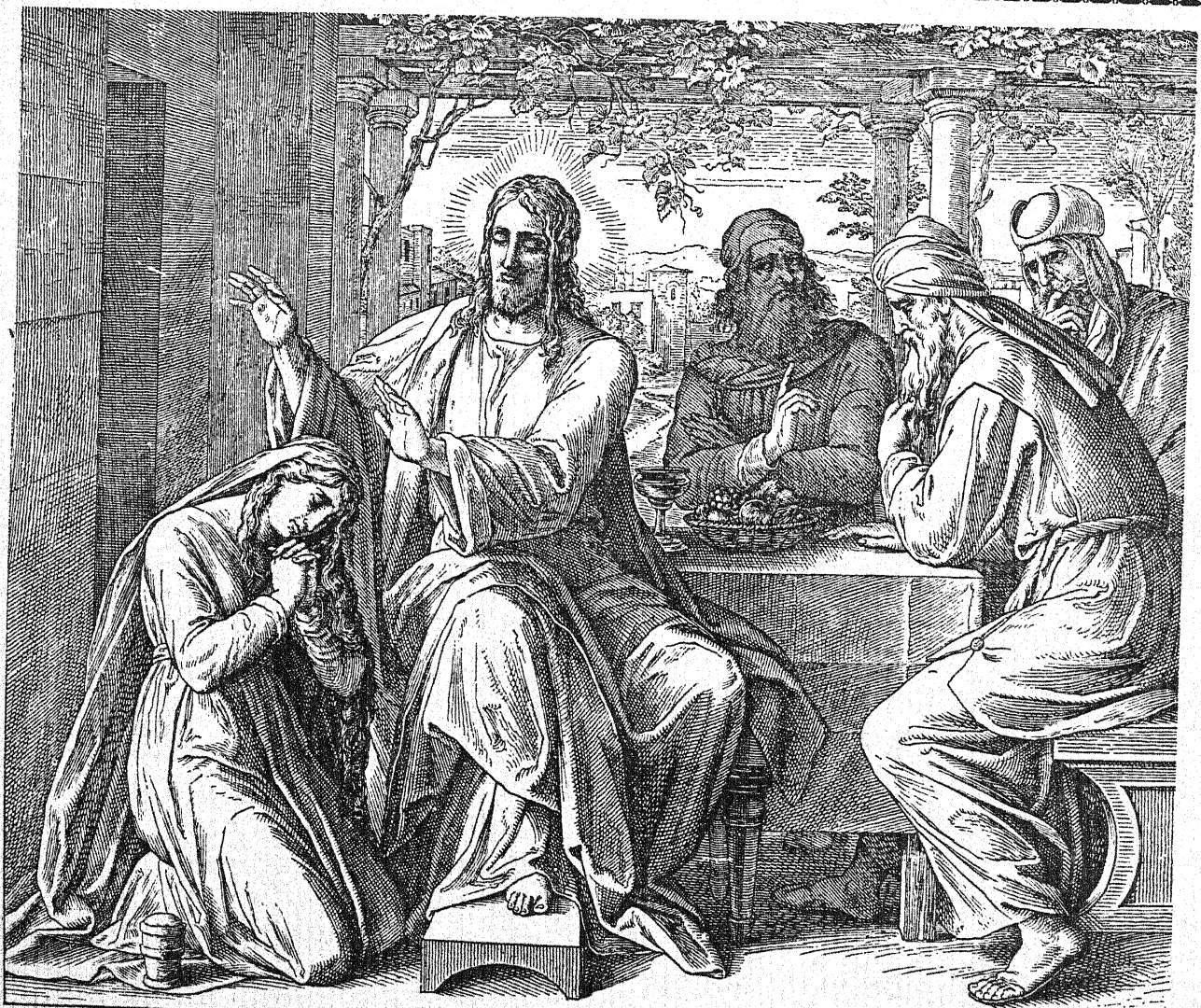
(b). Jesus Raises the Widow's Son

JESUS went to the city of Naim with His disciples. A great number of people followed Him. When they were near the gate of the city, they saw a funeral procession coming out. The dead man was the only son of a widow. The mother walked in the funeral, weeping with great sorrow.

Seeing her grief, Jesus took pity on her. and said, "Weep not." Then, touching the coffin, He said to the dead man, "Young man, arise." At once the widow's son sat

up and began to speak. Jesus gave him to his mother. How astonished the people were! They praised God in these words. "A great prophet has risen among us. God has visited His people."

The news of the miracle spread throughout Judea. By it Jesus proved that He was the very God, Who can bring men from death back to life. If we believe in Him, He will do great things for us. He will pity us, as He pitied the widow.



Jesus said to Mary Magdalen, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has made you safe. Go in peace."

84. Jesus Forgives Mary Magdalen

A PHARISEE named Simon invited Jesus to eat with him at his house. As they were at table with the other guests, a beautiful woman entered the room.

This was Mary Magdalen. She was a great sinner, as everyone knew. She came in with an alabaster box of precious perfume in her hands. Weeping, she went to where Jesus sat, and knelt at His feet.

She washed His feet with her tears, and wiped them with her long and lovely hair. She kept kissing His feet, weeping all the while in great sorrow. Last of all, taking the alabaster box, she poured out all the precious perfume over His feet.

When Simon the Pharisee saw what Mary Magdalen was doing, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, He would surely know who and what kind of woman is touching Him. He would know that she is a sinner."

Jesus saw the thoughts of the Pharisee and said, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

Simon answered, "Master, say it."

Then Jesus said: "A certain creditor

had two debtors. One of them owed him five hundred pence, and the other owed him fifty. Because neither could pay the debt, the creditor forgave them both. Which of the two, therefore, loved him most?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one to whom he forgave most." And Jesus said, "You have judged rightly."

Turning to Mary Magdalen, Jesus said, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, but you gave Me no water for My feet. With her tears she has washed My feet, and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; since she came in, she has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head; but with her perfume she has anointed My feet. Therefore I say to you: Many sins are forgiven her, because she has loved much. He to whom less is forgiven loves less."

To Mary Magdalen Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has made you safe. Go in peace."

But those who were present said to themselves, "Who is this that forgives sins also?"



The disciples awakened Jesus, saying, "Lord, save us, or we perish." Jesus replied, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith? Am I not with you?"

85 (a). Jesus Calms the Storm

FROM the time that John and Andrew followed Jesus, many men became His disciples.

Jesus taught His disciples more than He taught others that came to hear Him. Sometimes He told them of things that would happen in the future. He also told them to have strong faith in Him.

One day Jesus entered a boat and taught the people from it. When He had finished, He told His disciples to row to the other side of the lake. He was very tired, and fell asleep.

A great storm arose. The wind was so strong that the waves rose as high as houses. Much water entered the boat.

The disciples were afraid that the boat would sink. They awakened Jesus and said, "Lord, save us, or we perish." Jesus replied, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith? Am I not with you?" Then He stood up and said to the winds and the sea, "Peace, be still." At once there was a great calm. The tempest was gone, as if it had never been. The disciples in wonder said, "Who is this, that both winds and sea obey Him?"

(b). The Miraculous Catch of Fishes

ONE day Jesus stood by the Lake of Genesareth. On the shore there were two boats, one of which belong to Simon Peter.

Jesus went into Peter's boat. He said, "Go where the water is deep. Then let your nets down."

Peter answered, "Master, we have been fishing all night, but have caught nothing. However, because You tell me to do so, I will let down the net."

Peter and his companions let down

their net. They caught so many fishes that their net broke. Calling fishermen from the other boat to help them, they filled both boats with fishes, so that they were almost sinking.

In wonder, Peter fell down at the feet of Jesus. He cried, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Jesus replied, "Fear not. From now on you will catch men." Thus Jesus spoke of Peter's future preaching and conversions as head of the Church.



Jesus took the dead girl by the hand and said, "Little girl, arise."

86. Jesus Raises the Daughter of Jairus

AT CAPHARNAUM there lived a certain ruler of the synagogue named Jairus. One day his little daughter fell seriously sick, and was at the point of death.

Jairus could not bear the thought of losing his child. He said to himself, "I will ask Jesus to cure her. He has worked many miracles here at Capharnaum. I am sure that He will pity me, as He has pitied so many others before me."

Therefore Jairus came to Jesus. Falling on his knees, he begged, "Lord, my child is at the point of death. But come, lay Your hand on her, and she shall live."

Followed by His disciples, Jesus went towards the house of Jairus. As He walked, a woman who had been sick for twelve years came behind Him. She thought to herself, "If I could only touch the hem of His garment, I shall be cured."

Although the woman touched the robe of Jesus softly, He knew at once that someone had touched Him. Turning His head, He looked at the woman and said to her,

"Your faith has made you whole." From that hour the woman was completely cured.

As Jesus spoke to the woman, certain men came to Jairus. They said, "Your daughter is dead. Why do you trouble the Master further?"

But Jesus comforted Jairus, saying to him, "Do not fear. Only believe."

Soon Jesus and the people with Him arrived at the house of Jairus. Everything was in confusion. Many wept, because the little girl was dead.

Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do you weep? The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping." At these words, those present laughed at Jesus.

Jesus told Jairus to send away the crowds. He went to the side of the dead girl, took her by the hand, and said, "Little girl, arise." At once the child arose and walked.

Here we see the great power of Jesus. If we have faith, He will pity us, as He pitied the sick woman and Jairus.



Jesus broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, to be distributed among the people.

87. Jesus Multiplies the Loaves of Bread

PEOPLE followed Jesus wherever He went. Once they followed Him up a mountain. Seeing how many had come, Jesus asked the Apostles, "Where shall we buy bread, that these people may eat?"

They answered, "Two hundred pennyworth of bread will not be enough for them. There is a boy here, with five loaves of bread and two small fishes, but what is that among so many?"

Jesus told the people to sit down. There were about five thousand present. They sat on the grass on the side of the mountain. Jesus took the loaves of bread, gave thanks, and broke the bread into pieces. Then He gave them to His disciples, to be distributed among the people. The disciples also distributed the fishes.

When everybody had eaten as much as he wanted, Jesus said to His disciples, "Gather up what remains, that nothing may be lost." They filled twelve baskets with the fragments.

When the people saw this miracle, they exclaimed, "He is indeed the prophet that was promised for the world." They wanted

to make Him king, but Jesus sent them away. In the night He followed His disciples to Capharnaum.

Another time Jesus again worked this miracle of the multiplication of bread. A crowd of four thousand had followed Him. There was nothing to eat except seven loaves of bread.

Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and broke the bread into pieces. He ordered His disciples to give the bread to those present. When all had eaten, seven baskets of fragments were left.

By these miracles of the multiplication of earthly bread, Jesus showed us His power. Later He was to use that power in the institution of the Holy Eucharist. There, the Heavenly Bread, which is His Body, is multiplied. In that Sacrament we partake of the Body whose Presence Jesus multiplies, as He multiplied the bread on the mountain.

If we find it difficult to follow Jesus, we should feed our souls with His Body, so that we may be given strength, as those that were fed in the desert.



Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. Thou art Christ, the Son of God."

88. Jesus Promises Bread from Heaven

THE day after the first miracle of the loaves, the people that Jesus had fed saw that He was no longer on the mountain. They went to Capharnaum to look for Him. When Jesus saw them, He said, "You seek Me because you ate of the loaves and were filled. But do not work for the bread that perishes; work for that bread which lasts forever. The Son of Man will give it to you."

The people asked, "What shall we do, that we may do the will of God?"

Jesus answered, "You must believe in Him that He has sent. My Father gives you the true bread from Heaven. That bread will give life to the world."

Then the people said, "Lord, give us this bread always."

And Jesus answered, "I am the bread of life. He that comes to Me shall not hunger. He that believes in Me shall not thirst. Amen, amen, I say to you: He that believes in Me shall have everlasting life.

"I am the Living Bread which came down from Heaven. Anyone that eats this bread shall live forever. The bread

which I will give is My flesh. It will bring life to the world."

The Jews asked each other, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

But Jesus said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you shall not have life. My flesh is meat indeed. My blood is drink indeed. He that eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I abide in him. I am the Bread that came down from heaven. He that eats this bread shall live forever."

In these words Jesus promised the institution of the Most Holy Eucharist. This promise was later fulfilled at the Last Supper.

But many of the disciples refused to believe. They said, "This is a hard saying. Who can believe it?" Many of them left Jesus, and followed Him no longer.

Jesus asked the twelve Apostles, "Will you also go away?" And Simon Peter answered for them all, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and known that You are Christ, the Son of God."



And I say to you: You are Peter; and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven.

89. Jesus Gives the Keys to Peter

JESUS and His disciples were in the town of Cesarea Philippi. He asked them, "Who do men say the Son of Man is?"

They answered, "Some say He is John the Baptist. Others say He is Elias. Still others think He is Jeremias, or one of the Prophets."

Jesus said, "But you, who do you say I am?"

Answering for his companions, Simon Peter declared, "You are Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Then Jesus said to Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon, Bar-Jona. Flesh and blood has not revealed this truth to you. My Father in heaven has taught it to you. And I say to you: You are Peter; and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you shall bind upon earth shall be bound also in Heaven. Whatever you shall loose upon earth shall be loosed also in Heaven."

By these words Jesus promised to make

Peter the head of His Church. Keys are and have always been a symbol of power. When Our Lord said, "I will give you the keys of Heaven," He meant to give Peter power to rule the Church.

Peter was the first Pope of the Holy Catholic Church. He was the head on earth of the Religion established by Jesus Christ Himself, the only True Religion. He was the first of the long line of Popes that have succeeded each other ever since, to rule God's Church. He who does not obey the Pope is disobedient to Jesus Christ. He who refuses to recognize the Pope does not belong to the Church of Jesus Christ. For Jesus Christ placed the Pope at the head of that Church.

From the time that Jesus chose Peter to be the first among the Apostles, He began to tell them of His coming passion and death. But He always added that after three days He would rise again.

Jesus taught them, saying, "What does it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul?"



As Jesus prayed, He was transfigured. With Him appeared Moses and Elias surrounded by light.

90 (a). The Transfiguration of Jesus

JESUS took Peter, John, and James with Him up to a mountain to pray. As He prayed, the Apostles saw that His face was changed. It shone like the sun, with a bright and white light. His clothing, too, shone brightly. As they looked, two men appeared and talked to Jesus. Those men were Moses and Elias. Like Jesus, they were surrounded by light.

The Apostles were very much surprised by the Transfiguration. Peter cried out, "Master, let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elias."

As Peter spoke, a bright cloud appeared and covered them. From the cloud a voice came, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him." The Apostles were afraid, and fell upon their faces. But Jesus touched them and said, "Arise. Do not be afraid."

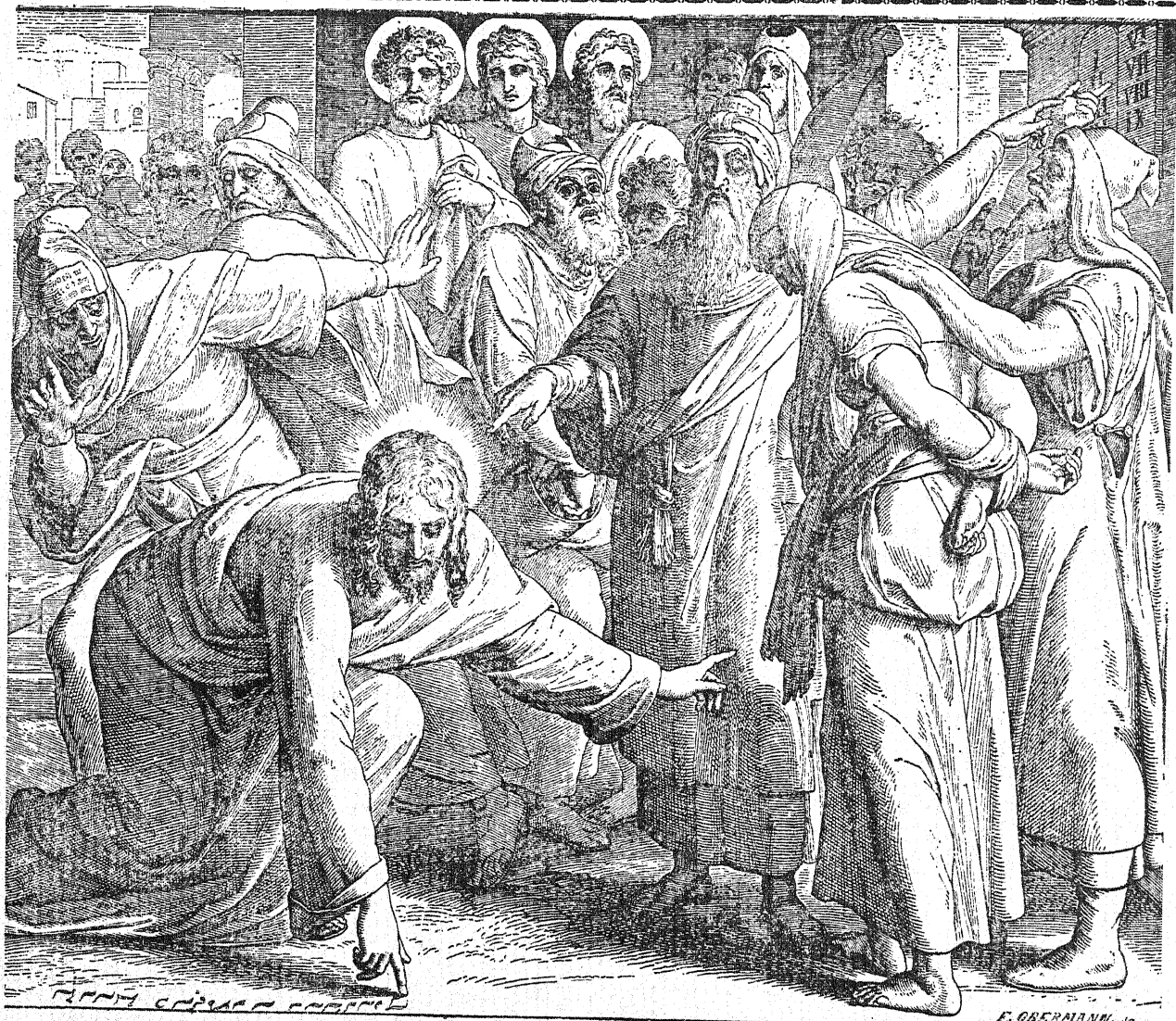
When the Apostles looked up, they saw nobody except Jesus. Elias and Moses were gone. Jesus was no longer transfigured. He looked as He was before. As they went down the mountain, Jesus said, "Do not tell anyone what you have seen, until I shall rise from the dead."

(b). Jesus Cures a Man Possessed by the Devil

AT THE foot of the mountain, Jesus found a big crowd surrounding the rest of His disciples. A man ran to meet Him, and fell at His feet. The man cried, "Lord, have mercy on my son. He is a lunatic, and suffers much. I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Taking pity on the man, Jesus touched the boy and said to the evil spirit

in him, "Go out of him." The boy regained his senses, and was well from that hour.

Amazed, the disciples asked, "Why is it that we could not cure the boy? Why could we not cast the devil out? We tried very hard, but with no results." Jesus answered, "It is because of your lack of faith. Besides, this kind of devil is cast out only by prayer and fasting."



Jesus said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Then He bent down, to write on the sand.

91. Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman

THE SCRIBES and Pharisees brought a very sinful woman to Jesus. They said, "Master, this woman is very wicked. The Law says that as punishment for her sin, she should be stoned to death. What do You say?"

Jesus saw how the woman wept with sorrow and shame because of her sin. She could not even look at Jesus, but covered her face with her hands, and wept, as her accusers dragged her before Him.

Jesus did not answer the Pharisees. Stooping, He wrote with His finger on the sand. He was sorry for the woman, but He also knew that the Pharisees were right about the Law. They urged Him to answer.

At length Jesus looked up and said, "Let him that is without sin among you, first cast a stone at her." Then Jesus again bent, to write on the sand.

The Scribes and Pharisees were astonished at the answer of Jesus. They began thinking of their own sins. Not one among them could say truly that he had

not sinned. They were filled with shame. Without saying anything, nor making any noise, they went away, one by one, till all were gone.

Only the woman stood before Jesus. He looked up from His writing and saw that she was still weeping.

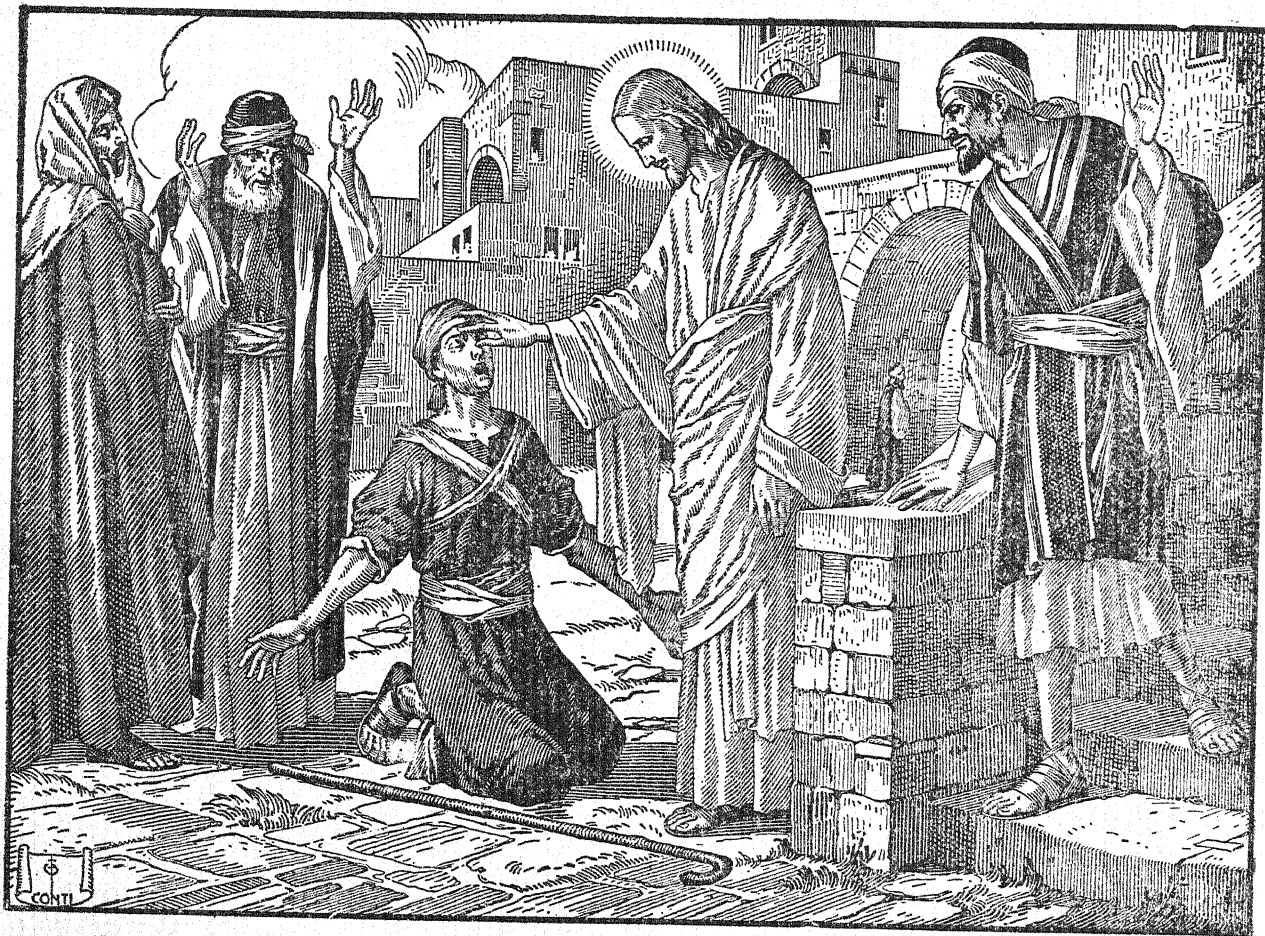
Jesus said gently, "Woman, where are those that accused you? Has no one condemned you?"

The woman heard the gentle voice of Jesus, and His kind words. She looked at Him and answered, "No man, Lord."

Then Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more."

In this way Jesus forgave a wicked sinner. He forgave all who were sorry for their sins, however wicked.

The Pharisees found fault with Jesus for forgiving sins. In the same way the enemies of the Church attack Confession. They do not believe the teachings of Jesus about the forgiveness of sins. They find fault with the Sacrament of Penance that Jesus Himself instituted.



Jesus put clay on the blind man's eyes and said, "Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloe."

92. Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind

MANY of those cured by Jesus were blind men. Once, as He was leaving the Temple, He saw a man who was blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, "Master, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. He is blind, so that the greatness of God may be shown in him. For I must work the works of God while it is yet day. Soon night comes, and no man can work."

Then Jesus put clay on the blind man's eyes. He said, "Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloe."

The blind man obeyed, and was cured at once.

The neighbors of the blind man, and those that used to see him begging, were very much surprised that he could now see. They asked each other, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

The man answered, "I am he."

They said to him, "How is it that now you can see?"

The man replied, "A Man named Jesus made clay and put it on my eyes. He said, 'Go and wash in the pool of Siloe'. I went and washed, and received my sight."

But the Jews did not believe what the man told them. They called his parents and asked, "Is not this your son that was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

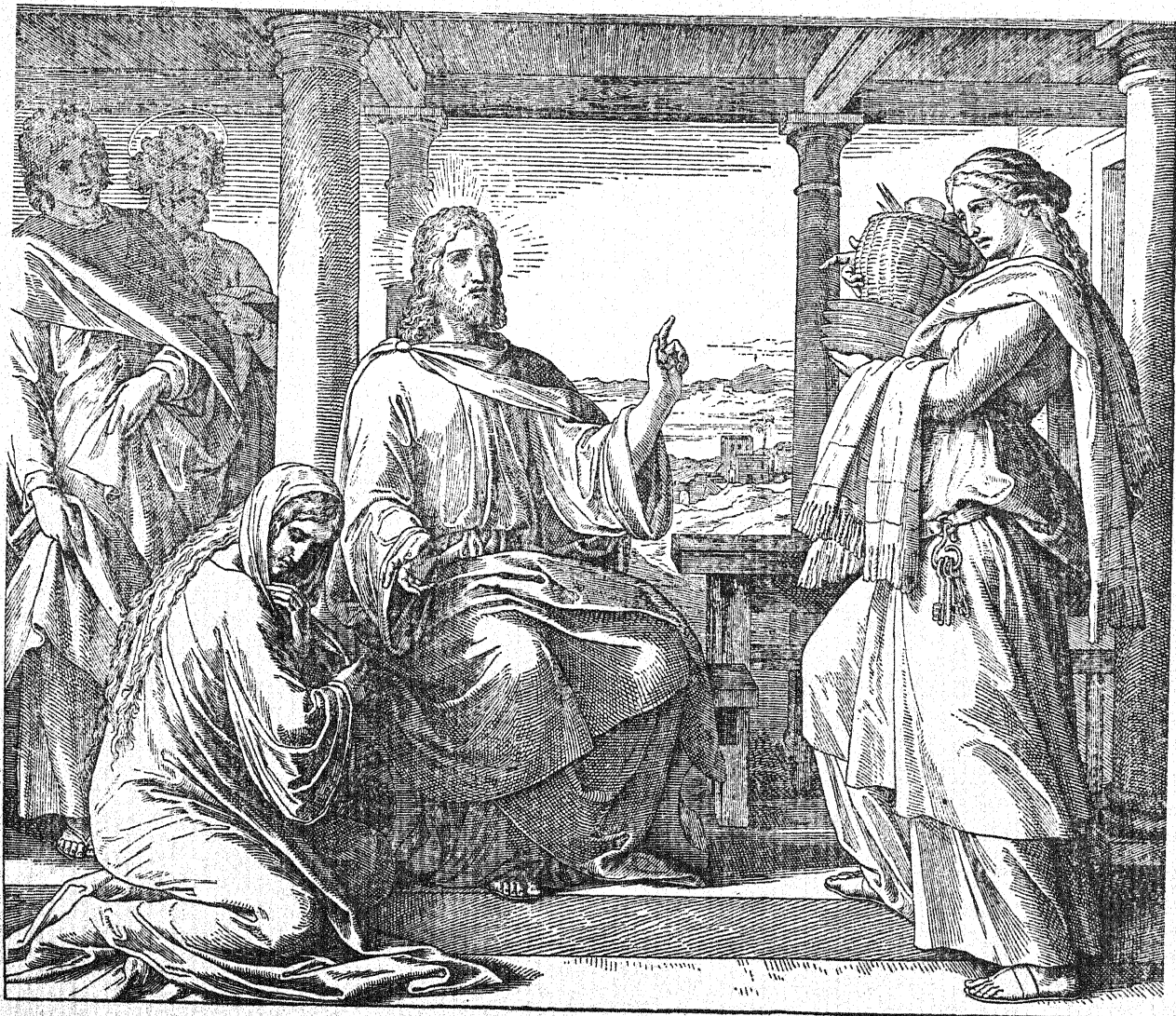
His parents said, "He is of age; ask him. Let him tell you himself."

The Jews again asked the son, "What did Jesus do to you? How did He cure you?"

He replied, "I have already told you. But you would not believe."

The Jews said, "We do not know who this Jesus is. We do not know where He comes from."

The man answered, "Yet He has opened my eyes. Now we know that God does not hear sinners. He hears those who love Him and do His will. Since the world began, no one has heard of any man being cured if he was born blind. If Jesus is not of God, He could do nothing."



Jesus answered, "Martha, you are troubled about many things. Mary has chosen the better part."

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93. Jesus in the House of Mary and Martha

IN THE town of Bethany near Jerusalem, two sisters, Martha and Mary, lived with their brother Lazarus. They were friends of Jesus.

One day Jesus went to their house and sat down to rest. Mary sat at His feet and listened to His teachings. Martha went back and forth preparing food and arranging the house. When Martha saw Mary, she came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, is it right that Mary should leave me to do the work alone? Tell her to help me."

Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are troubled about many things. Only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It shall not be taken away from her."

Jesus often taught that people should not always be thinking of money and other worldly things. He said, "No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will support the one and despise the other. Do not be anxious about what you will eat, or what you will wear. Behold the birds of the air. They do not sow, nor reap, nor

gather grain into barns. Yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than the birds? And why do you trouble about clothing? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not work. Neither do they spin. Yet not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed as one of them. If God clothes the plants of the field, which are here today, but tomorrow are gone, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith! So do not be anxious. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things will be given to you."

Again Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where rust and moths consume, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where rust and moths do not consume, and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there is your heart also."

By these words Jesus does not mean that we should take no care of these things. He means that we should take care of our souls first and always.



Jesus cried, "Lazarus, come forth!" The dead man stood up and came out of the grave.

94. Jesus Raises Lazarus

LAZARUS, the brother of Martha and Mary, was sick. His sisters sent word to Jesus, Who was teaching in a distant place. After two days, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go to Bethany. Lazarus is sleeping. I shall wake him up again."

While Jesus was away, Lazarus had died. He had been buried four days. Martha heard that Jesus was coming, and went to meet Him. Weeping before Him, she said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God will be given to You."

Jesus replied, "Lazarus will live again."

Martha answered, "I know he will live again in the resurrection at the last day."

Then Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believes in Me, though he be dead, shall live. And he that lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Martha called Mary, who fell weeping at the feet of Jesus. Mary said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Many friends had come with Mary. Jesus asked them where they had laid Lazarus. They then went to the place where he had been buried four days before. It was a cave, with a stone closing it.

Jesus told the men to take away the stone. Lifting up His eyes He said, "Father, I give You thanks that You have heard Me. I know that you hear Me always. But let these people around Me know, too, that they may believe You have sent Me." In a loud voice Jesus cried, "Lazarus, come forth! Immediately Lazarus stood up and stepped out of the cave. He was wrapped up and tied in his burial clothes. Jesus said to those present, "Loose him and let him go."

Because of this miracle, many believed in Jesus. But the Pharisees hated and envied Him more. The chief priests called a council, and there they determined to put Jesus to death.



He said, "Let the little children come to Me and forbid them not. The kingdom of heaven is of such."

95. Jesus Calls the Children

JESUS loved children. He always had time for them, although He was very busy. Once, He had been teaching all day. He was tired, and sat down to rest.

Several mothers came, bringing their little ones. They wanted Jesus to put His hands on their children and bless them.

But the disciples rebuked the mothers, saying, "Go away with your children. The Master is tired. Let Him rest."

Jesus saw the children, and heard how they were being sent away. He said to His disciples, "Let the little children come to Me, and forbid them not. The kingdom of heaven is of such. I tell you that if you do not prepare yourselves for the kingdom of God with the trust and simplicity of a child, you shall not enter there."

Calling the mothers to bring Him their children, Jesus took the little ones in His arms. He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

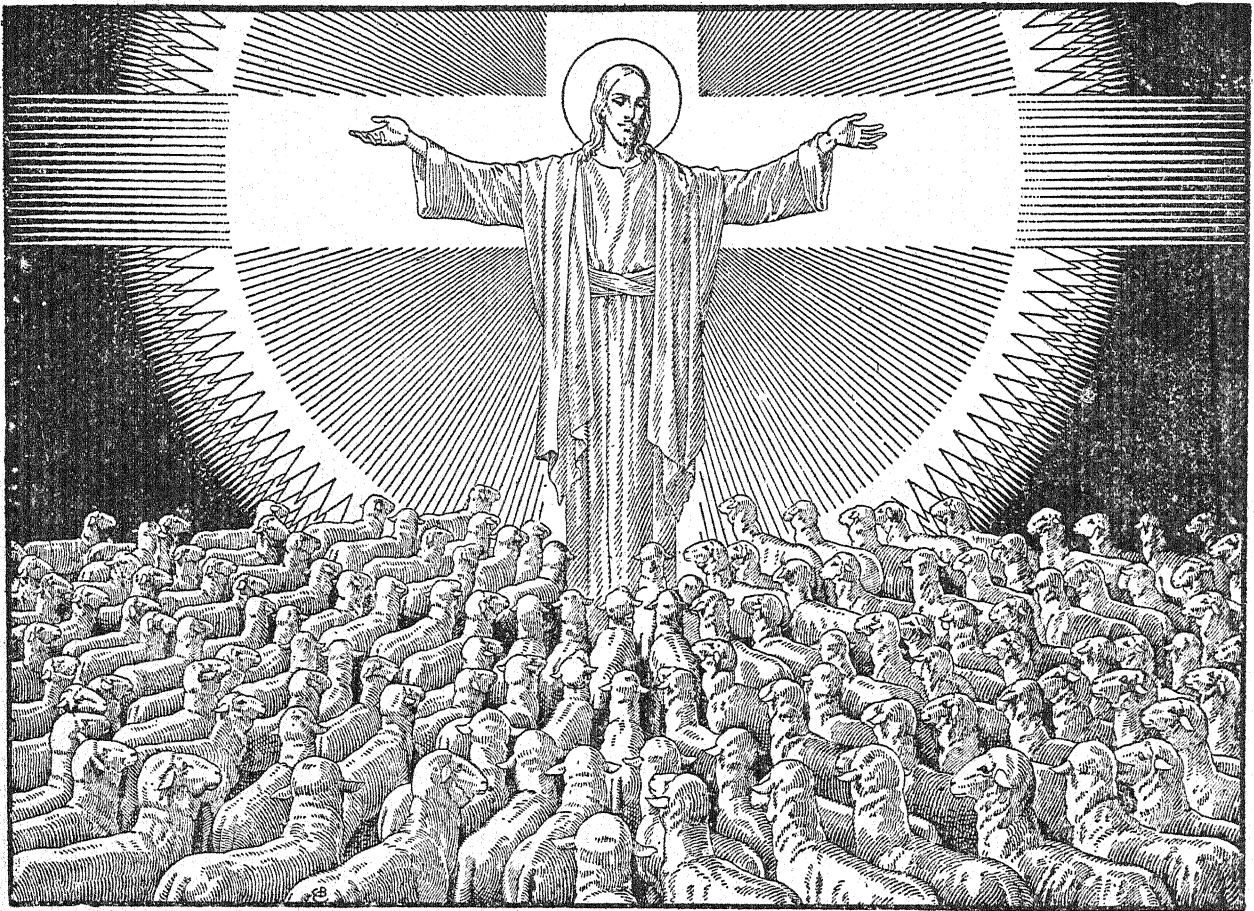
Jesus often told His followers to imitate children. Once, some of the disciples

asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Jesus called a child. Setting the little one in their midst, He said, "I say to you that unless you are converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whoever shall humble himself as this little child shall be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And he who receives one child in My Name receives Me.

"But he who shall scandalize one of these little ones shall be punished. It were better for him that a millstone be hanged around his neck, and he be drowned in the depths of the sea. Do not despise these little ones."

From this we learn many important lessons. However old we may be, we should have clean hearts full of simple trust and faith in God, like the children that Jesus told us to imitate. We should also have special care for children, and love them as Jesus loved them.



Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I lay down My life for My sheep."

96. Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

JESUS often told the people how great the love of God is for men. Once He said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep. The hireling sees the wolves coming, and leaves the sheep; and the wolves catch and scatter the sheep.

"But I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me. I lay down My life for My sheep. And I have other sheep that are not in this fold. I must also bring them. They shall hear My voice. There shall be One Fold, and One Shepherd."

In these words Jesus spoke of those people who do not believe in the True Religion that He instituted. Jesus wants them all to be members of His Holy Catholic Church. He tells us that all the people of the earth should belong to that Church, at the head of which is the Pope, the direct successor of Peter. Whoever, therefore, helps to spread the True Religion of Christ is helping to do His will.

Jesus taught that God seeks the conversion of sinners, and rejoices at their repentance. The Pharisees murmured against Him, because He went with publicans and sinners. They said, "This Man receives sinners, and eats with them."

But Jesus told them, "Not those that are well need a physician, but those that are sick. I am come to call, not the just, but sinners, that they may do penance."

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "What man of you that has a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine and go after the one that is lost? And when he has found it, does not lay it on his shoulders, rejoicing? Going home, he calls together all his friends. He says to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.'

"I say to you that in the same way there shall be joy in heaven over a sinner who does penance, more than over ninety-nine just who do not need repentance."



While the laborers slept, his enemy came
and sowed cockle among the wheat.



As the cockle is gathered and burned, so will it
be with the wicked at the end of the world.

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97. The Parable of the Wheat and Cockle

JESUS told many parables about His Church. Once He said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man that sowed good seed in his field. While his laborers slept, his enemy came and sowed cockle (or weeds) among the wheat. When the wheat grew, the cockle also grew.

"The laborers asked their master, 'Did you not sow good seed? Why is it that there is cockle?' The man answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The laborers asked, 'Shall we go and gather up the cockle?' But the man replied, 'No, lest in gathering the cockle you uproot the wheat also. Let both grow until the harvest. Then I will say to the reapers, Gather up the cockle first, and burn it. But the wheat gather into my barns.'"

The disciples asked Jesus to explain the meaning of the parable. He said, "The man that sowed the seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the Kingdom of God. The cockle are the children of the devil. The enemy is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the angels.

As the cockle is gathered and burned, so will it be with the wicked at the end of the world. There shall be weeping, and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the just shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Thus Jesus taught that in His Church the wicked would be mingled with the good, till the end of time. Jesus also taught that the Catholic Church was to spread throughout the whole world, and become the home of all nations.

He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. A man sowed it in his field. It is the least of all seeds. But when it is grown, it becomes a great tree. The birds of the air come to live among its thick branches."

The sects that separate from the Church are broken branches of this great tree. They cannot bear fruit. They will all die, as so many sects have already died. But the Mother Church will live forever. It will spread to all parts of the world. All peoples and all nations shall belong to it.



The unmerciful servant laid hold of his fellow-servant and said, "Pay what you owe me."



The unmerciful servant did not show mercy, as the good Samaritan did, who helped a wounded traveler.

98. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

JESUS taught forgiveness and mercy. One day Peter asked Him, "Lord, how often shall I forgive my brother if he should sin against me? Seven times?"

Jesus replied, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." He meant that we should always forgive our enemies.

Jesus told this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to take an account of all those who owed him money. One of his servants owed him ten thousand talents, but had no money to pay the debt. The king ordered that the servant should be sold, as well as his wife, his children, and all his property, to pay the debt.

"The servant heard the king's order. He fell down before his master and cried, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

"Filled with pity, the king let the servant go, and forgave him his debt. The servant went out. He found one of his fellow-servants, who owed him only one hundred pence. The servant laid

hold of his fellow-servant, taking him by the throat. He said, 'Pay me what you owe me.'

"The fellow-servant fell down before him and cried, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

"But the first servant would not forgive him. He cast his fellow-servant into prison until he should pay the debt of one hundred pence.

"When the other servants of the king saw this, they told their master. Calling the first servant, the king said, 'O you wicked servant! I forgave you all your great debt of ten thousand talents, because you asked me. I had pity on you. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow-servant?'

"The king was very angry. He ordered the first servant to be tortured, until he should pay his debt."

Jesus said, "So shall My heavenly Father do to you, if from your hearts you do not forgive others their trespasses against you."



The Good Samaritan bound up the wounds of the traveler. He took him to an inn, and had him cared for.

99. The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A CERTAIN lawyer wished to tempt Jesus. He asked, "Master, what must I do to possess eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the Law?"

The lawyer said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, with thy whole soul, with all thy strength, and with all thy mind. Thou shalt also love thy neighbor as thyself."

Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you shall live."

But the lawyer asked, "And who is my neighbor?"

In answer, Jesus told this parable: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell among robbers, who wounded him and stripped him of his clothes. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead.

"A Jewish minister passed by, and saw the man, but did not stop. A Levite also passed by, and saw the man. He, too, went on his way without stopping.

"Then a Samaritan passed. When he saw the wounded man, his heart filled

with pity. He went up to the injured man, poured oil and wine on his wounds, and bound the wounds up. He set him on his own beast. Then taking him to an inn, he watched over him that night.

"In the morning the Samaritan took out some money and gave it to the owner of the inn, saying, 'Take care of this wounded man. If this money is not enough, I shall pay you whatever is lacking when I come back.'"

After telling the parable, Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of those three men was neighbor to the man that fell among robbers?"

The lawyer replied, "He that showed mercy to him."

And Jesus said, "Go, and do the same."

In this way Jesus taught that every one in need and in distress is our neighbor. As much as we can, we should try to help and relieve him. If we are indifferent to the sufferings of other people, we are not obedient to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

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The Prodigal Son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants."

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100. The Parable of the Prodigal Son

JESUS taught that God is pleased when a sinner repents. The Pharisees murmured against Him, because He went with publicans and sinners. They said, "This man receives sinners, and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable of the Prodigal Son, in order to explain how pleased God is when a sinner is converted: "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me the part of your fortune that belongs to me.' Very sadly the father divided the property between his sons.

"The younger one took all his wealth, and went to a far country. There he led a bad life, and wasted his money. When he had spent all, there came a famine over the land.

"Having nothing to eat, he went to work for a man, who sent him to take care of pigs. He was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that the pigs ate. But nobody would even give him husks.

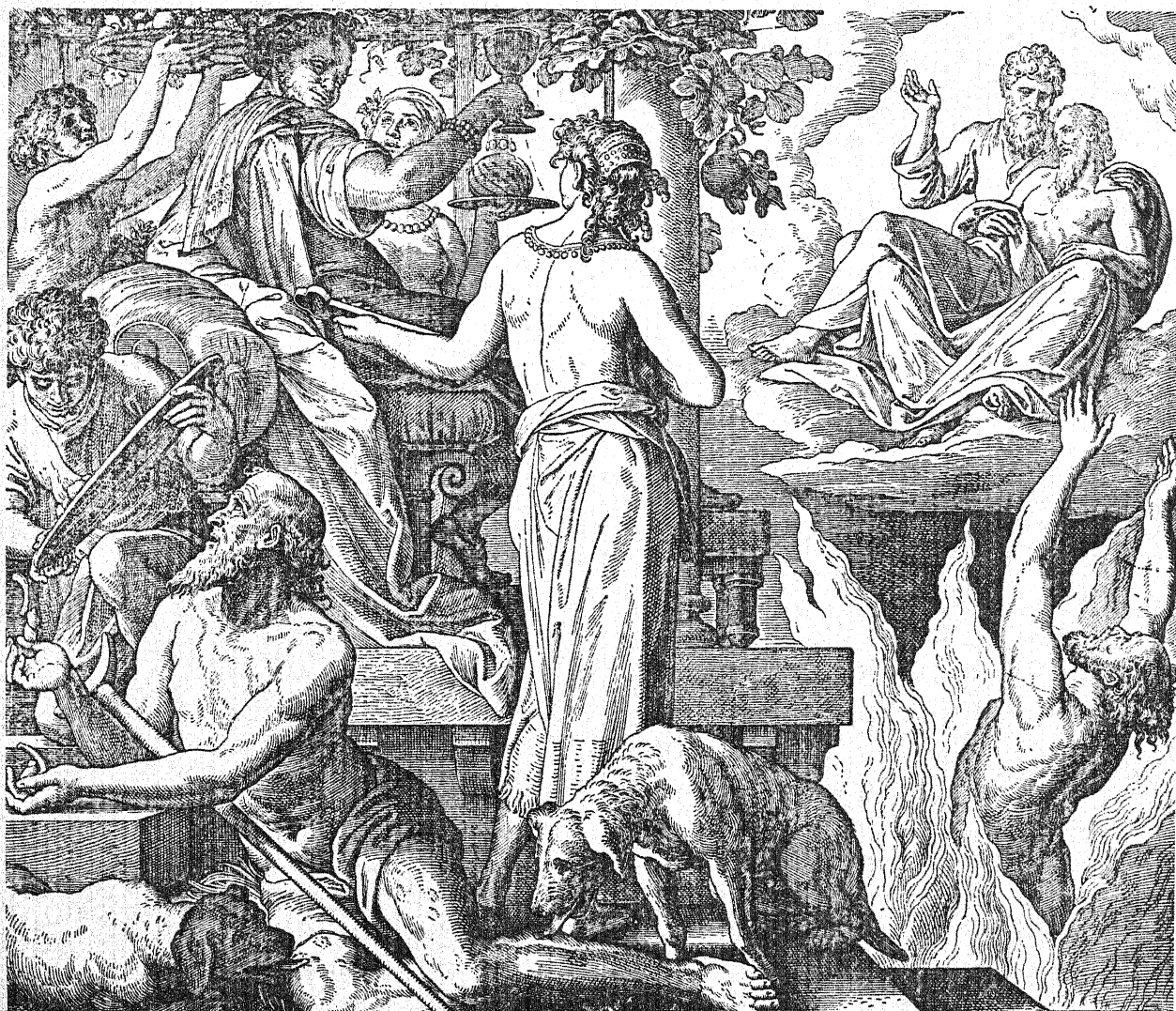
"One day, as he thought of his sad

life, he remembered his father. He said to himself, 'How many servants in my father's house have more than enough bread to eat! But here I die with hunger. I will go back to my father. I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.'

"So the younger son returned to his father. When he was yet a long way off, his father saw him. The old man was filled with pity for his suffering son. He was full of joy because his son had returned. Running forward to meet his son, he embraced and kissed him.

"The son said, 'Father I have sinned against heaven, and before you. I am not worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father called to his servants, 'Bring the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger. Give him shoes. Go and kill the fatted calf. Let us eat, and be merry, because my son whom I thought dead has come to life again. He was lost, and is found.' "



Abraham said, "If they do not believe Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe, even if one should rise from the dead."

B5

101. The Parable of Dives and Lazarus

JESUS taught that a very great punishment awaits those who live only for the pleasures of this world and neglect the love of God. He told His followers this parable:

"There was a certain man called Dives, who was very rich. He was always clothed in purple and fine linen, and feasted richly every day. Another man was a beggar, named Lazarus. With body full of sores, he used to lie at the gate of Dives, waiting for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. But no one gave him anything. Only the dogs came, to lick his sores.

"When the beggar Lazarus died, angels carried him to Abraham's bosom. But when the rich man Dives died, he was taken to hell to be punished. From there he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Dives cried, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus, that he may dip his finger in water, to cool my tongue. I am tormented in this flame.'

Abraham answered, 'Son, remember that you received good things during your

lifetime. Lazarus received only evil. Now he is comforted, but you are tormented. Besides, we cannot help you. Between us and you there is a great gulf. We cannot pass to you, and you cannot come to us.'

"Dives begged, 'Then, Father Abraham, I pray you to send Lazarus to my father's house, where I have five brethren. Let Lazarus tell them about this place, that they may not come here.'

"Abraham answered, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them.'

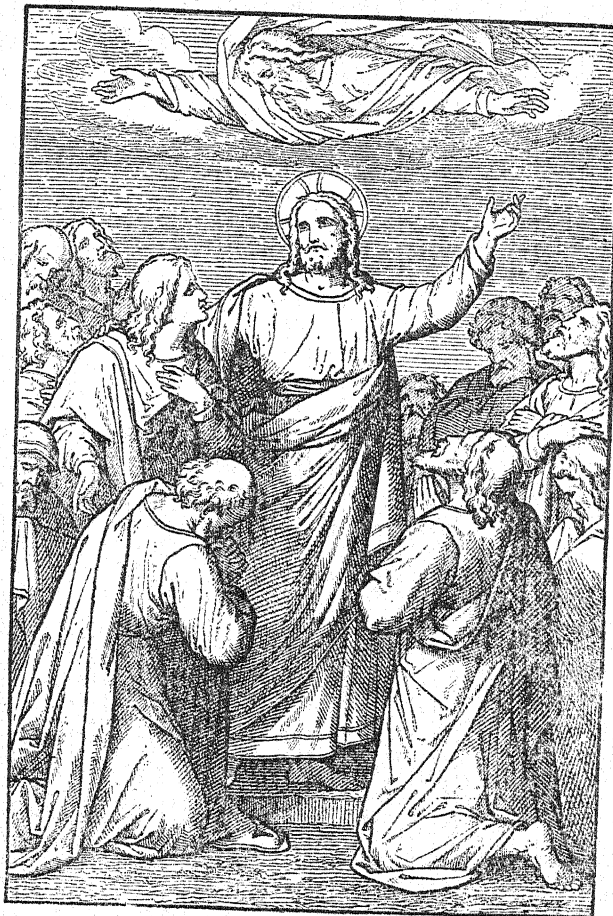
"Dives said, 'No, Father Abraham. But if one from the dead appears to them, they will surely do penance.'

"Abraham replied, 'If they do not believe Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe, even if one should rise from the dead.'"

In the same way, many refuse to belong to the True Church, even though they see great miracles to prove that it is the Church of God. They sin in thus wilfully turning away from what they can see is Truth.



The Pharisee was proud, but the publican prayed,
"O God, be merciful to me a sinner."



When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how
to pray, He taught them the "Our Father."

B5

102. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

JESUS taught that God loves a humble and contrite heart. He once told this parable: "Two men went up to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a publican. The Pharisee went to the front, and standing there said, 'God, I give You thanks that I am not like other men. They are unjust men, like this publican. I fast twice a week. I give alms to the Temple.' The publican stood at the back, far off. He would not so much as lift his eyes to heaven. Bending humbly, he struck his breast and said, 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'"

Jesus said, "I say to you, the publican went home forgiven, rather than the Pharisee. Because every one that exalts himself shall be humbled; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted."

Thus Jesus taught us that when we pray, we should be humble. We should remember who God is, and who we are.

Once the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, teach us how to pray." He answered, "This is how you should pray: 'Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed

be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.'"

Jesus said, "Ask, and you shall receive. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Which of you asks his father for bread, and receives a stone? If you then know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the good spirit to those that ask Him!"

Another time Jesus said, "If you join together to pray for anything, My Father will grant your prayers. Whenever two or more are gathered together in My Name, there I am in their midst. If you ask the Father anything in My Name, He will give it to you."

Thus we see the importance of prayer. We should never forget to say our prayers, especially our morning and evening prayers.



Waving palms, the people cried, "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord."

B5

103. Jesus Enters Jerusalem

JESUS prepared to go to Jerusalem. He sent ahead two of His disciples, telling them, "Go into the next village. There you will find an ass and a colt. Bring them to Me. If anyone should stop you, say that the Lord has need of them."

The disciples brought the ass and the colt. They put their garments on the colt and made Jesus ride it.

As Jesus rode toward the city, the people spread their garments on the ground, for Him to pass over. Some cut branches from the trees, and strewed them along the way. Many followed Jesus, waving palms and crying, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

Some Pharisees said to Jesus, "Master rebuke Your disciples." But He answered, "If they should be silent, the very stones will cry out."

Jesus drew near Jerusalem. He wept over it, saying, "If you, O Jerusalem, only knew the things that are for your peace! But they are hidden from your eyes. The day will come when your enemies

will surround you. They shall not leave in you a stone upon a stone, because you have not known the time of your visitation."

The whole city was excited by the entrance of Jesus. People asked, "Who is this?" Others answered, "It is Jesus, the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

Jesus went to the Temple. The lame, the blind, and other sick came to Him. He healed them all.

Seeing the miracles that Jesus worked, the Pharisees became more envious than ever. The chief priests, scribes, and elders met together in the court of the high-priest Caiphas. They agreed to capture Jesus by craft, and put Him to death. They promised to pay Judas Iscariot, one of the Apostles, thirty pieces of silver to betray his Lord.

To His disciples Jesus made known that the time for His Passion had come. He said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." And a voice from heaven came, saying, "I have glorified, and I will glorify."



Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles. He said, "I have given you an example. As I have done to you, do also to one another."

104. Jesus Washes the Feet of the Apostles

THE feast of the Pasch was near. It was Thursday. One of the friends of Jesus had prepared a large room where Jesus and His Apostles would eat the Paschal lamb, as the Law commanded.

Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the supper. They bought wine and bread, and prepared the lamb. These they took to the large room, in readiness for the night.

That night Jesus sat down to eat with His Apostles. He had long waited for that night. Now He was happy that it had come. He was glad that everything He came to do on earth was being fulfilled.

Jesus said to the Apostles, "I have desired to eat this Pasch with you before I suffer." They sat down and had their supper.

When supper was over, Jesus took a towel and a large basin full of water. He was going to wash the feet of His Apostles. He came to Peter. Peter was shocked to see what Jesus wished to do, and cried, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "What I do, you do

not understand now. But in the future, you will understand."

Peter answered, "You shall never wash my feet."

Then Jesus said, "If I do not wash you, you shall have no part with Me."

Peter replied, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

So Jesus washed the feet of the twelve Apostles. When He had finished, He said, "Do you know what I have done? You call me 'Master' and 'Lord'. If I Who am your Lord and Master have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example. As I have done to you, do also to one another."

During His life, Jesus was continually giving us examples to follow. He taught us by both His words and His actions. One of the greatest virtues He taught was humility. His washing of the Apostles' feet is one more example of that virtue. For Jesus, Who is God Himself, washed the feet of poor and lowly men, even of Judas, who would betray Him.



Jesus took bread, blessed it, and
broke it into pieces.



Jesus gave the Bread to the Apostles, saying:
"Take ye and eat; This is My Body."

105. Jesus Institutes the Most Blessed Sacrament

NOW the moment for which Jesus had waited so long had come. He took bread and blessed it. Breaking it into pieces, He gave it to the Apostles, saying, *"Take and eat: This is My Body."*

Jesus then took the chalice containing wine, blessed it, and said, *"Drink of this: This is My Blood of the New Testament which shall be shed for you and for many unto remission of sins. Do this as often as you shall do it in commemoration of Me."*

In this way Our Lord said the First Mass. He offered His Body and Blood as a sacrifice, as He offered them on the cross.

Today the priest offers Christ's Body and Blood in the Mass. When the priest consecrates bread and wine, they are immediately changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. For Jesus Himself by these words gave the Apostles, and through them all priests of His Church, the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

In this way too Jesus gave the Apostles their First Holy Communion. He gave

them the Bread from Heaven that He had promised. It was His own Body and Blood that the Apostles received from His own hands.

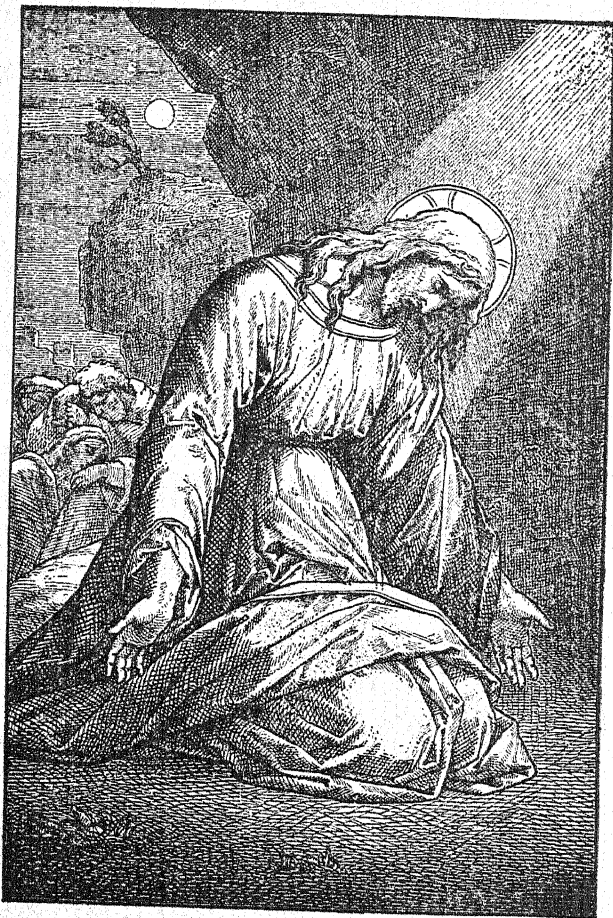
Today, in the Blessed Sacrament we also partake of that Body and Blood. For Jesus gave His Church the power to continue His works and teachings, through the Apostles, whose successors are the Pope, the Bishops, and priests.

Jesus told the Apostles that one of them would betray Him. They looked with wonder at one another. They said, "Who is it, Lord?"

Judas Iscariot said, "Is it I, Master?" And Jesus replied, "You have said it." Judas immediately left the table and went out into the night.

Jesus told the Apostles that they would abandon Him. To Peter, who protested, He said, "This night, before the cock crows, you will deny Me thrice."

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Then all shall know that you are My disciples."



Jesus fell into an agony. He prayed, "Father, not My will, but Thine, be done."



Jesus said, "Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

106. The Agony in the Garden

AFTER the supper, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him. They went to the Mount of Olives, into a garden called Gethsemani. Jesus said to them, "Stay here and watch with Me."

He then went farther, knelt down, and prayed. He said, "Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me. Yet not My will, but Thine, be done."

Rising from His prayer, Jesus went and found His disciples asleep. He said to Peter, "Could you not watch one hour with Me? Watch and pray, that you may not fall into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak!"

Jesus went a second time to pray. He said, "Father, if this chalice may not pass away, but I must drink it, Thy will be done!" Again He went to find His disciples asleep.

Jesus returned once more to pray a third time, saying the same words. He fell into an agony so great that His sweat fell in drops of blood, trickling to the ground. An angel appeared to strengthen and console Him. Jesus then went the third

time, to find His Apostles asleep. He said to them, "Sleep now and take your rest. The hour is at hand. The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of sinners. He is at hand that will betray Me."

While Jesus spoke, Judas Iscariot came with a band of soldiers and servants of the Jewish priests and Pharisees. They carried lanterns and torches, swords and clubs. Judas had given them a sign, saying, "Take hold of the Man that I shall kiss. That is Jesus."

When Judas saw Jesus, he cried, "Hail, Master!" and kissed Him.

Jesus said, "Friend, why have you come? Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Jesus asked the crowd, "Whom do you seek?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said, "I am He." At these words they fell to the ground. Jesus again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" Again they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He." The soldiers therefore laid hands on Jesus.



At that moment the cock crew. Jesus turned and looked sorrowfully at Peter.
Peter went out and wept bitterly.

107. Peter Denies Jesus

PETER saw the soldiers taking Jesus. He drew his sword. He struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. This servant was named Malchus.

Jesus said, "Stop! Put up your sword. For all that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Shall I not drink the chalice that My Father has given Me?" He touched the ear of Malchus and healed it.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests: "You are come as to a robber, with swords and clubs, to take Me. I taught daily in the Temple, but you did not lay hands on Me."

The soldiers bound Jesus. The disciples were afraid, and fled. Only Peter and John followed Him a long way off.

The soldiers took Jesus first to Annas, father-in-law of Caiphas, who was the high-priest that year. After examining Jesus, Annas sent Him bound to Caiphas.

At the court of Caiphas the scribes and elders were gathered together. Jesus was taken into the court. John went in, too, but Peter stayed outside. Later, John

spoke to the portress, and brought Peter in. Peter stood with the servants and officers around the fire, for it was cold.

A servant-maid came to Peter and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

Peter denied, saying, "I do not know what you mean."

Then another maid saw Peter. She said to those around the fire, "This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth."

But Peter swore, "I do not know the Man."

After a while those that had stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you also were one of the followers of Jesus. Your speech tells us that."

Then Peter began to curse and to swear that he did not know Jesus. At that moment the cock crew. Jesus turned and looked sorrowfully at Peter. And Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows, you will deny Me thrice."

In great sorrow, Peter left the court, and going out wept bitterly.



Caiphas said, "Tell us if you are Christ the Son of God." Jesus answered, "I am."

108. Jesus Is Taken Before Caiphas

ANNAS, the father-in-law of Caiphas, questioned Jesus about His doctrine. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have taught in the synagogues and in the Temple, where all the Jews go. I have spoken nothing in private. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard Me. They know what I have said."

One of the servants standing near gave Jesus a blow, saying, "Do You answer the high-priest in that manner?"

Jesus replied, "If I have spoken ill, tell Me what the evil is, but if I have spoken well, why do you strike Me?"

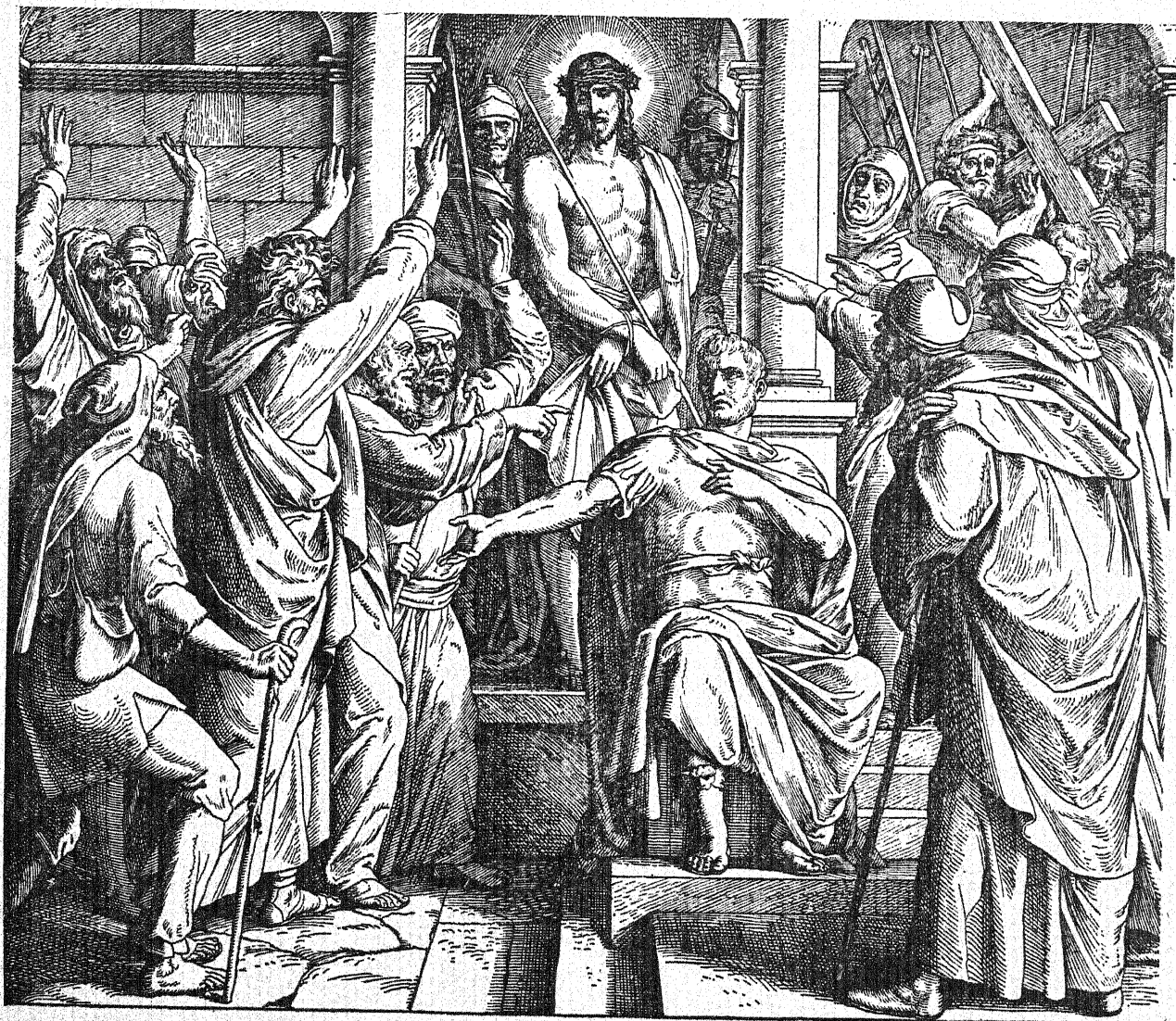
Finally Annas sent Jesus bound to Caiphas, the high-priest that year. The chief priests and the whole Council or Sanhedrin were gathered there. They sought false witnesses against Jesus, that they might put Him to death. But nothing could be proved against Him. At last two false witnesses declared, "This man said that He would destroy the Temple, and in three days build another not made by hands."

Caiphas asked Jesus, "Have You nothing to say to the things that have been said here against You?" But Jesus did not answer. Caiphas said, "I adjure You by the Living God, tell us if You are Christ, the Son of God."

Jesus answered, "I am. Nevertheless I say to you, hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of God, and coming in the clouds of Heaven."

At this Caiphas tore his garments and cried out, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You all have heard the blasphemy. What shall we do to Him?" The members of the Council answered, "He is guilty of death." They spat on Him and struck Him. They blindfolded Him, and mocked Him.

In the morning the multitude present led Him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. For the Council had no power to condemn anyone to death. It merely decided who was guilty. Only the governor sent by the Roman Emperor had power to condemn to death.



Pilate said, "What shall I do with Jesus?" The people cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

109. Jesus Is Taken Before Pilate

JESUS stood in the hall before Pontius Pilate, while the Jews stayed outside. Pilate went out and asked, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" The Jews answered, "He is a malefactor."

Pilate replied, "Judge Him then according to your Law."

But the Jews wanted Jesus condemned to death. And so they said, "This Man has corrupted our nation. He forbade paying tribute to Caesar. He says He is Christ the King."

Pilate went inside and asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world."

Pilate asked, "Are You a King?" Jesus answered, "Yes."

Pilate went out and said to the Jews, "I find no guilt in the Man."

Knowing that Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate sent Him to King Herod, who was at that time in Jerusalem. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus did not answer anything. The chief priests and scribes again accused Jesus. The soldiers made fun of Him, putting on Him a white

garment. Still Jesus said nothing. So Herod sent Him back to Pilate.

Pilate called together the chief priests and the people. He said, "I have questioned this Man. I have found no guilt in Him. Neither has Herod found Him guilty. So I will chastise Him, and set Him free."

It was then the custom, on the day of the Pasch, for the governor to release a prisoner. At the time there was a robber named Barabbas, who was in prison for having committed murder.

Wishing to release Jesus, Pilate asked of the Jews, "Whom shall I release, to you, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

The people shouted, "Barabbas!"

Pilate asked, "What shall I do with Jesus?"

The mob cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Pilate therefore took water and washed his hands, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Man."

The people shouted, "Let His blood be upon us, and upon our children!"

And so Pilate ordered that Jesus be scourged.



The soldiers put a purple cloak over the shoulders of Jesus, and made a crown of thorns, and put it on His head. They knelt before Him and mocked Him.

110. The Crown of Thorns

THE soldiers tied Jesus to a pillar and scourged Him. They put a purple cloak over His shoulders and then made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They put a reed in His hand.

Then they mocked Him. Bending their knees before Him, they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him. Then taking the reed, they struck His head with it, and rained blows on His face.

Pilate again went out to the people. He said, "I bring out Jesus to you, for I find no guilt in Him."

Jesus came out wearing the purple cloak and the crown of thorns. Pointing to Him, Pilate said to the multitude, "Behold the Man!"

But the people cried out louder, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Pilate answered, "Take Him you and crucify Him. I find no guilt in Him."

The Jews said, "According to our Law, He must die. He made Himself the Son of God."

Pilate entered into the hall once more. He asked Jesus, "Where do You come

from?" But Jesus did not answer.

Pilate said, "Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

Jesus replied, "You should have no power over Me that is not given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." Pilate again sought to free Jesus.

But the Jews cried, "If you release this man you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself king speaks against Caesar."

Pilate was afraid. He brought forth Jesus, and sat on the judgment seat. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

But they shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate asked, "Shall I crucify your King?" The priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

Seeing that he could not prevail upon them to set Jesus free, Pilate gave Him to them to be crucified. They took away His purple cloak, and put His own garments on Him. Then they led Him away to be crucified.



On the way to Calvary, Jesus fell down three times, under the heavy weight of the Cross.

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III. The Way of the Cross

THE soldiers put the cross, on which Jesus was to be crucified, upon His shoulders. With this heavy burden, Jesus went through the streets of Jerusalem and was met by His Blessed Mother.

He went towards Mount Calvary or Golgotha, a hill outside the city. There He was to be crucified. Jesus had not eaten since the Last Supper with His disciples. He had not slept. He had been scourged and beaten, and was very tired. On the way to Calvary He fell down three times under the heavy weight of the cross.

Fearing that Jesus might die on the way to Calvary, the Jews made Simon of Cyrene carry the cross. As Jesus walked to the place of His crucifixion, a great number of people followed Him. Many of them had followed Him before, and upon His entry to the city had waved palms to honor Him. Many He had cured. But not one of them now raised his voice to defend Him. Even His closest disciples abandoned Him.

Among the multitude there were some women. As Jesus passed, they wept to see how Jesus suffered. But Jesus said to

them, "Do not weep for Me. Weep for yourselves, and for your children."

When Jesus reached Calvary they stripped Him of His garments. They stretched Him on the cross, and nailed Him to it by His hands and His feet. His blood flowed and soaked the ground.

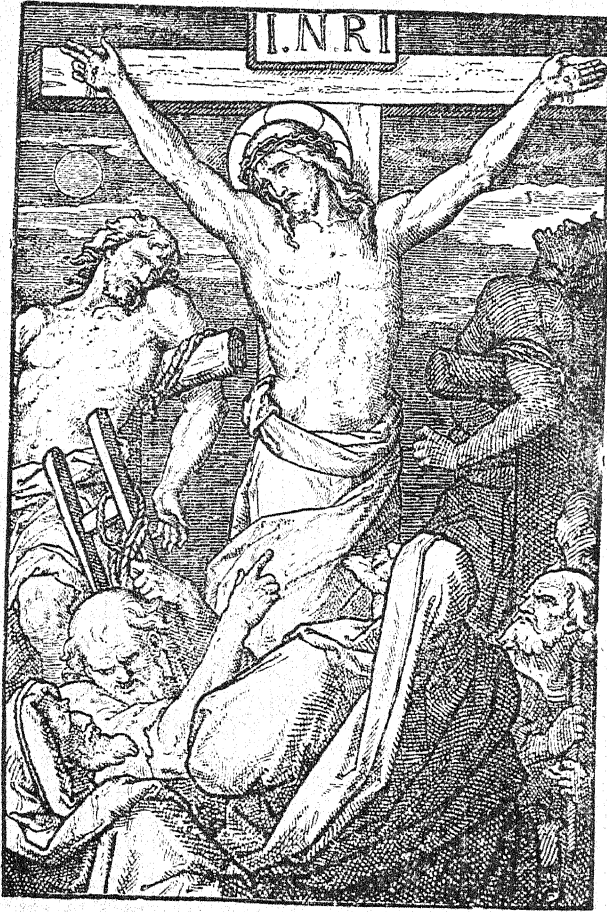
They stood up the cross, and let Him hang there. With Jesus they also crucified two thieves, one on His right, and the other on His left.

Pilate ordered a placard made, which said, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The soldiers nailed it above the head of Jesus.

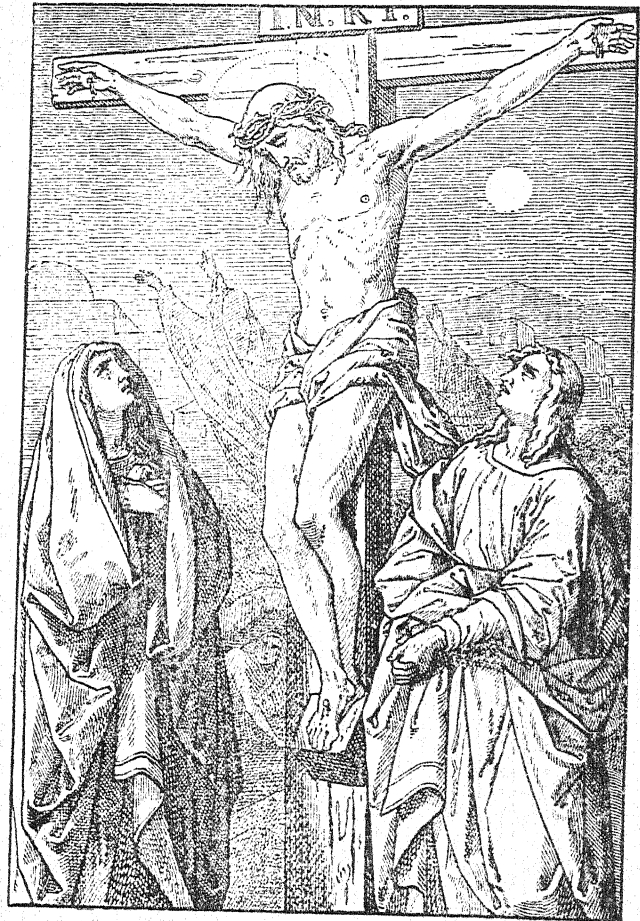
The soldiers took the garments of Jesus and divided them. But as His coat had no seam, they cast lots for it.

Many of those that passed scoffed at Jesus. They cried, "Save Yourself. If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross." Jesus prayed for them and for all that hated Him, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Jesus wished to suffer all this for love of us and for the salvation of our souls.



Jesus replied, "Amen, I say to you, this day you shall be with Me in Paradise."



Jesus cried, "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit!" Bowing His head He died.

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112. Jesus Dies on the Cross

ONE of the thieves crucified with Jesus blasphemed Him. He sneered, "If You are Christ, save Yourself and us!"

The other thief rebuked his companion saying, "You do not fear God. We are justly punished for our crime. But this Man has done no evil." To Jesus he said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

Jesus replied, "Amen, I say to you, this day you shall be with Me in Paradise."

At the foot of the cross stood Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and John, the beloved disciple. Looking down lovingly at His Mother, Jesus said, "Woman, behold thy son!" Then to John He said, "Behold thy Mother!" By these words Jesus gave to us His Mother to be our Mother also.

Jesus was nailed on the cross at about the sixth hour (about noon). From then to the ninth hour He hung on the cross. There came a darkness over the earth, although it was afternoon. At the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

After a few moments He said, "I thirst." One of the soldiers took a sponge, and

soaked it in vinegar mixed with gall. He put the wet sponge at the end of a reed and held it to the mouth of Jesus.

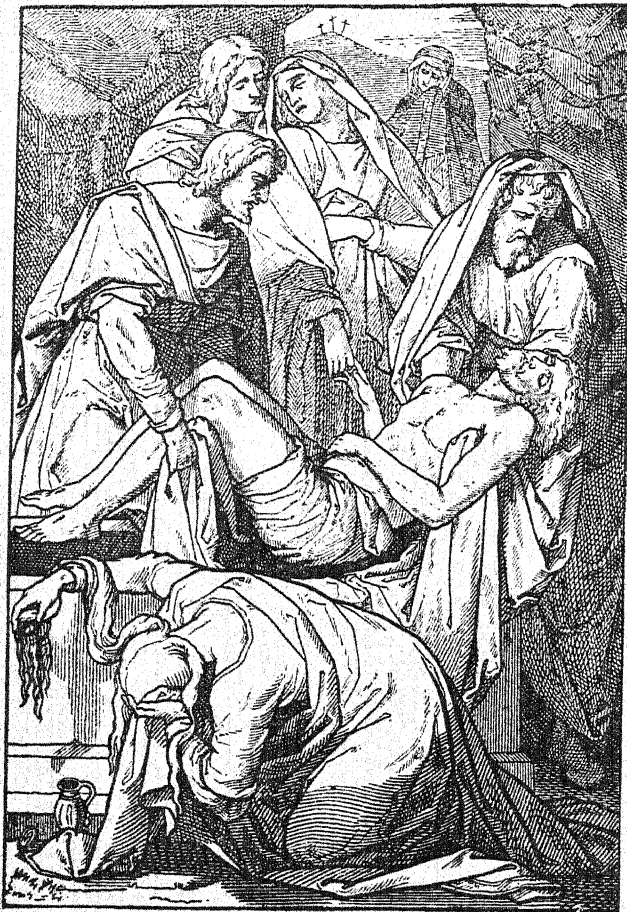
When Jesus had tasted the vinegar, He said, "It is consummated." He cried, "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit!" And bowing His head, He died.

At the moment of the death of Jesus, darkness covered all. The earth quaked. The veil of the Temple was torn in two. Rocks were rent; the graves were opened, and many dead arose.

Those watching were terrified. They exclaimed, "Truly this was a just Man! He was the Son of God!"

The next day was the Sabbath, and was a great feast-day. The soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves, to be sure that they were dead. For they did not want them to hang there on the Sabbath.

But finding Jesus already dead, the soldiers did not break His legs. One of them pierced His side with a spear. Out of the wound there flowed blood and water. For our sins Jesus shed his Blood to the last drop.



They laid the body of Jesus in a new sepulchre.



Very early that day Jesus rose from the dead.

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113. The Resurrection

WHEN evening came, one of the disciples, Joseph of Arimatha, went to Pilate. He asked permission to take down the Sacred Body of Jesus from the cross.

Joseph and Nicodemus, another disciple, took down His Body. They gave Him to His mother, who had been watching during the whole time that her Son was on the cross. They wrapped up the Body in linen cloths, and perfumed it with spices, as was the custom of the Jews.

They laid Jesus in a new sepulchre in a garden near by. Then rolling a great stone to close the grave, they went away. The chief priests and Pharisees sealed the sepulchre and set guards to watch, for fear that the disciples might take away the Body of Jesus.

Everybody rested the next day. It was the Sabbath, and a great feast day. But the morning after the Sabbath, very early, some holy women came to the sepulchre. They wanted to anoint the Body of Jesus, to do well what had to be finished hurriedly when He was buried.

The women were Mary Magdalen, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome.

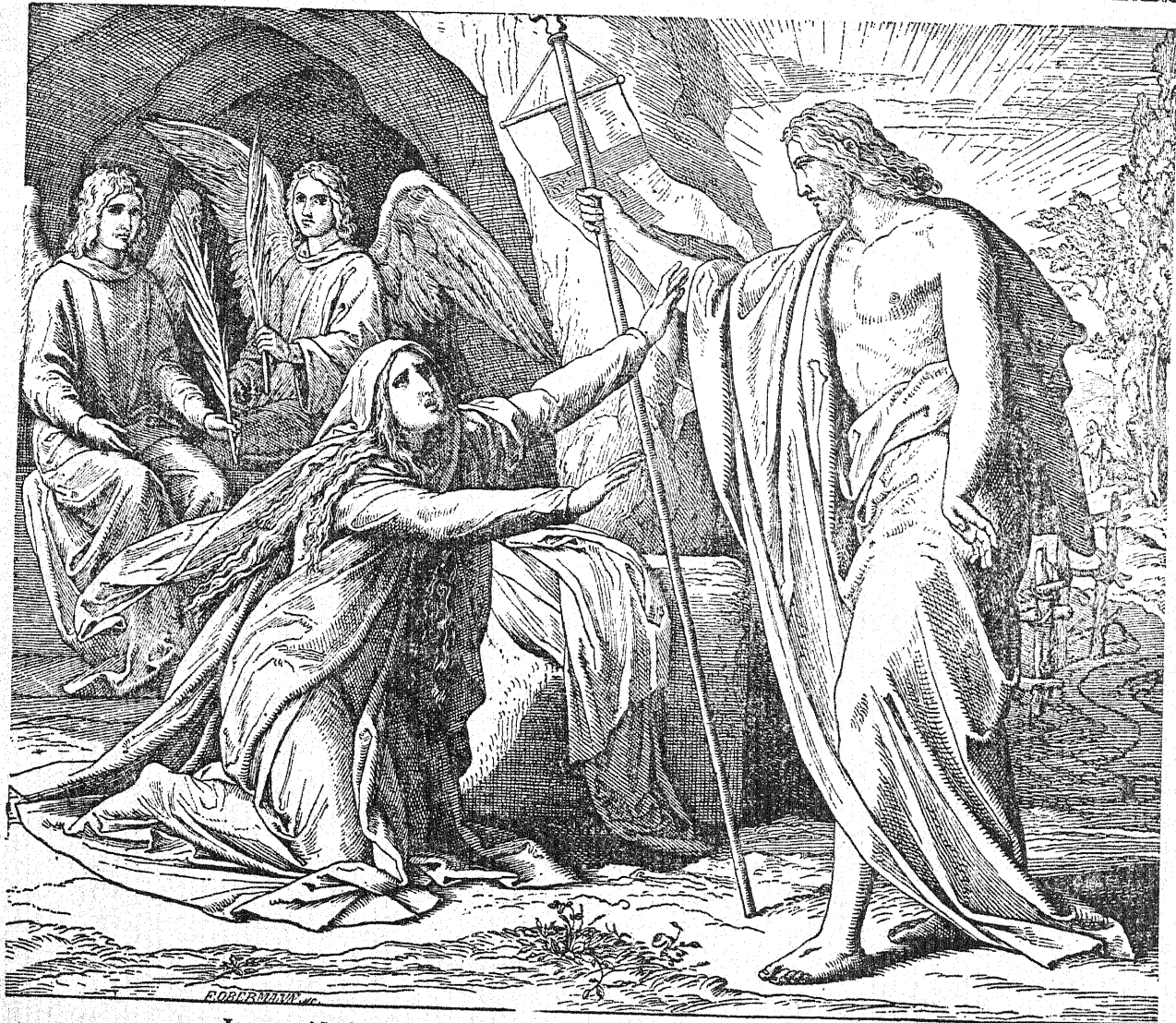
They asked each other, "Who shall roll us back the stone from the grave?" For the stone was very great. But when they came to the place, they saw that the stone had already been rolled back.

For very early that day Jesus had risen from the dead, coming forth from the sepulchre where He had been laid. There was a great earthquake. An angel rolled the stone away, and sat upon it. His face was as bright as lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

The soldiers whom the Pharisees had set to guard the grave were struck with terror. They fainted away at sight of the angel. Later, they ran to Jerusalem to tell the Pharisees what they had seen. But the Pharisees paid them to say that the disciples had taken away the Body of Jesus.

By the Resurrection, Jesus confirmed all of His teachings. He proved beyond doubt that He is God.

The Resurrection strengthened the Apostles in their faith. They knew that Jesus was God and would fulfill all His great promises to those who were faithful to Him.



Jesus said, "Mary!" She fell on her knees and cried, "Master!"

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114. (a). Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalen

MARY Magdalen, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome entered the sepulchre. There they saw a young man in a white robe, and were frightened. But he said, "Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen. Go, tell His disciples and Peter that He goes before you into Galilee. There you shall see Him, as He told you." The women went to tell the disciples the news.

Peter and John ran to the sepulchre. They saw the clothes that had bound Jesus, but His body was not there. So Peter and John went away.

Mary Magdalen stood at the sepulchre and wept. She saw two angels sitting in the sepulchre. They said, "Woman, why

do you weep?" Mary answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him."

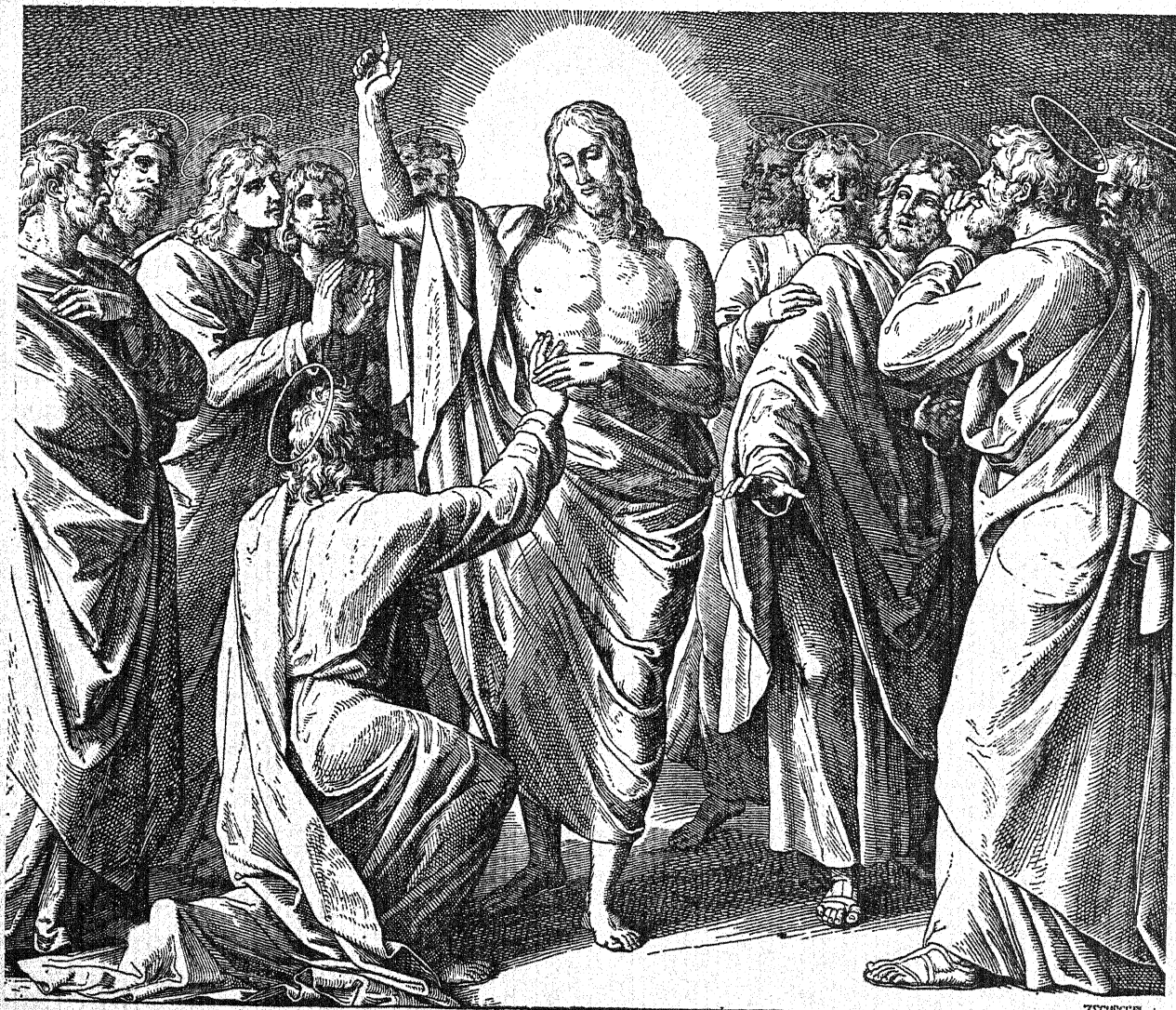
Then she turned and saw Jesus standing near, but knew Him not. He said, "Woman, why do you weep? Whom do you seek?" Thinking that He was the gardener, Mary cried, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him. I will take Him away." Jesus said, "Mary!" She recognized Jesus, at once, fell on her knees, crying, "Master!"

Jesus said, "Go to the Apostles. Tell them that I shall ascend to My Father and to your Father, to My God and to your God." Mary went and said to the Apostles, "I have seen the Lord."

(b). Jesus Appears on the Way to Emmaus

SHORTLY after, the holy women who had gone to the sepulchre saw Jesus. Peter also saw Him. In the evening, two disciples were on their way to a town called Emmaus. Jesus appeared and walked with them, but they did not know Him. When they came to Emmaus, they invited Him

to eat with them. At table, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it in pieces, and gave it to them. At once they knew Jesus. But that same moment He disappeared from them. And so they rose and returned to Jerusalem, where they told the Apostles that they had seen Jesus.



Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your hand into My side, and do not doubt, but believe."
Thomas answered, "My Lord and My God!"

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115. Jesus Appears to His Disciples

THAT night the Apostles were gathered together. They had closed all the doors, because they were afraid of the Jews.

Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said, "Peace be to you." He showed them His hands and His side, where the wounds were. He said, "As the Father sent Me, so I also send you."

He breathed on the Apostles and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven. Whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." By these words Our Lord gave to His disciples, and through them to the Bishops and Priests of the Church, the power to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Confession.

Now, when Jesus appeared to the Apostles, Thomas, one of them, was not present. Later the others told him that they had seen Jesus.

But he answered, "Unless I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand in His side, I will not believe."

After eight days, the Apostles were again gathered together, with Thomas among them. Again all the doors were shut.

Jesus appeared and said to Thomas, "Put in your finger here, and see My hands. Put your hand into My side, and do not doubt, but believe."

Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

After this, Jesus appeared again to His disciples at the Lake of Genesareth. They had been fishing all night, but had caught nothing. In the morning, Jesus appeared, standing on the shore, but the Apostles at first did not know Him.

Jesus said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat, and you will catch something." They obeyed Him, and caught a great number of fishes. John, the beloved disciple said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

The Apostles hurried to draw the miraculous catch of fishes to the land.



Peter said, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My sheep."



On the fortieth day, while the disciples looked on, Jesus ascended into heaven.

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116 (a). Jesus Makes Peter Head of His Church

WHEN the Apostles had drawn in the miraculous catch of fishes, Jesus said, "Come and eat." After they had eaten He called Peter and asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter replied, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My lambs." Again Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Again Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Jesus replied, "Feed My lambs."

For the third time Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was sad, because Jesus asked him the same question three times. And so he answered, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You." Jesus then said to him, "Feed My sheep."

In this way Jesus chose Peter as head of His Church, first in authority. He told

Peter to care for all His followers, the priests as well as the people. By the choice of Jesus Himself, Peter became the first Pope of God's Church.

Jesus appeared many times during the forty days between His resurrection and His ascension. He spoke to His disciples of the kingdom of God. Once He appeared to more than five hundred disciples on a mountain in Galilee.

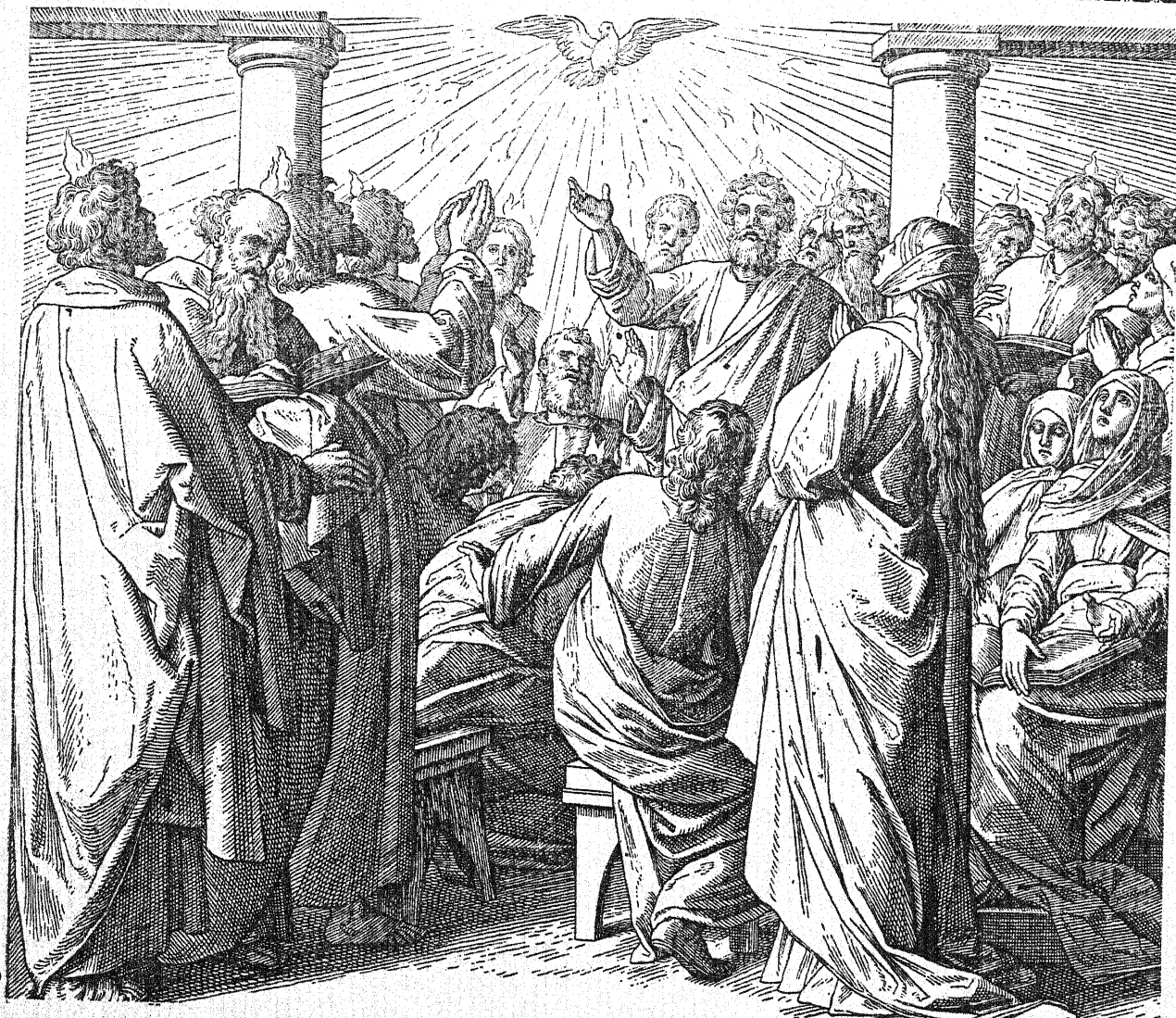
Jesus said to His disciples, "All power is given Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you all days, even to the end of the world."

The Church of Christ will never fail to teach the whole of His doctrines.

(b). The Ascension

ON the fortieth day after His resurrection Jesus led His disciples out to Mount Olivet. There He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While they looked on, He was raised up to heaven. A cloud finally hid Jesus from their sight. He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the

Father. As the disciples watched, two angels appeared. They said, "This Jesus Who is ascended into heaven shall come again, as you have seen Him going up to heaven." In commemoration of this event, we celebrate Ascension Thursday as a holyday of obligation, forty days after Easter Sunday.



On the day of Pentecost, as the disciples were together in one place, tongues of fire appeared on them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

117. The Descent of the Holy Ghost

AFTER the Ascension, the Apostles and other disciples, numbering about one hundred and twenty, returned to Jerusalem. There they waited for the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Ghost. The Blessed Virgin Mary was with them.

The disciples decided to fill the place left vacant by Judas Iscariot. They chose two men from among those who had followed Jesus from the beginning. They then prayed and cast lots, to see which of the two should be chosen. The lot fell upon Matthias. From that time he was numbered among the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, all the disciples were together in one place. There came a sound, as of a strong wind. Tongues of fire appeared on them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. They began to speak in different languages.

At that time there were in Jerusalem men speaking many different languages. How surprised they were when they heard the disciples! They wondered, "Are not these men Galileans? How is it that every one of us hears his own language spoken by them?"

Then Peter stood up. He lifted up his hand for all time.

voice and preached for the first time. He said, "Ye men of Israel, hear my words. You killed Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. But He is risen again. We are all witnesses of His resurrection. Now, as you see and hear, the Father has sent us the Holy Ghost. Therefore let every one believe that Jesus Whom you crucified is Lord and Christ."

Many who heard Peter were sorry for their sins. They asked, "What shall we do?"

Peter answered, "Do penance. Let every one of you be baptized for the remission of your sins. Then you shall receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost."

All those that believed Peter's words were baptized that day, about three thousand persons.

To commemorate the descent of the Holy Ghost we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, ten days after Ascension Thursday. It is one of the biggest feasts of the year.

From that time on, the Holy Church which Jesus founded continued to grow day by day, until it spread over the whole world. It is Catholic (which means Universal), because it is for all nations



Peter said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, arise and walk!"

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118. Peter Heals a Man Born Lame

PETER and John were going up to the Temple to pray. A man who had been lame from birth was being carried there. Upon seeing Peter and John, he asked an alms. Peter said to him, "Silver and gold I have none. But what I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, arise and walk!" The man sprang up and walked. He went into the Temple praising God.

All those who saw this miracle were filled with wonder. They crowded around the Apostles. Peter said to them, "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this? Why do you look upon us, as if we had cured the man with our own power? You delivered up and denied the Son of God. You denied the Holy and just One, and wanted a murderer to be released to you. You killed the Author of life. But God has raised Him from the dead. The faith that comes by Jesus has given this man his health in the sight of you all. But I know that you persecuted the Lord through ignorance. Do penance, therefore.

Be converted, that your sins may be forgiven." Many who heard believed, and were converted.

As Peter spoke to the people, the chief priests came and laid hands on him and on John, and cast them into prison.

The next day, the rulers, elders, scribes, Annas, and Caiphas, were all gathered together. They set the Apostles in their midst and ask them, "By what power, or in whose name have you done this?"

Peter replied, "In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified, Whom God has raised from the dead, this man stands here before you whole. Jesus is the foundation stone which you rejected. There is no salvation in any other. There is no other Name under heaven given to men, whereby they must be saved."

The priests wondered to see and hear how bold the Apostles were. They were no longer afraid. So, because the priests feared the people, they set the Apostles free.



They stoned Stephen to death. But before he died he prayed, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

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119. Stephen Is Stoned to Death

THE disciples were of one heart and soul.

They shared all they owned with one another. There was none needy among them.

The fame of the Apostles, especially of Peter, spread because of their miracles. People brought out their sick into the streets, so that even the shadow of Peter might fall upon them to cure them.

Filled with envy, the high-priest cast the Apostles into prison. But in the night an angel set them free, and told them to continue teaching. In the morning they entered the Temple and taught there. Soldiers came and took them before the Council. The Apostles said, "We ought to obey God rather than man."

The priests were angry, and wanted to put the Apostles to death. But one among them, named Gamaliel, said, "Take care how you treat these men. If their work is of men, it will come to nothing. But if it is of God, you cannot destroy it."

The Council therefore ordered the Apostles scourged, and set them free. Every day they preached in the Temple

and from house to house, teaching the word of God.

The number of Christians increased rapidly. Seven holy men were chosen deacons, to help the Apostles. One of them was Stephen. He was full of wisdom, and did many wonders. Once many Jews disputed with him. As they could not answer his arguments, they paid false witnesses and took him before the Council.

The false witnesses swore that Stephen had spoken against Moses and against God. Stephen spoke without fear before them all. He rebuked them for the hardness of their hearts, and said that they had killed the Messiah Himself. The Jews in fury dragged Stephen out of the city, and there they stoned him to death. But before he died, he prayed for them, saying, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

From the death of Stephen the Christians began to be persecuted. The disciples were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. But wherever they went, they preached the word of God.



Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian answered, "How can I, unless someone teach me?"

120. Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian Officer

PHILIP, one of the seven deacons, went to Samaria. There he preached the word of God, and worked many miracles. He converted and baptized many.

Hearing about the many conversions in Samaria, the Apostles in Jerusalem sent Peter and John there. These two laid their hands on those who had been baptized, and confirmed them.

This is an example of the practice by Apostles of the Sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament gives us the Holy Ghost and makes us perfect Christians. It strengthens our Faith.

Among those that had been converted was a man named Simon Magus. Simon saw that the Holy Ghost was given when Peter and John laid their hands on the baptized. He offered the Apostles money, saying, "Give me also this power, that I may lay my hands and give the Holy Ghost to men."

Peter answered, "Keep your money to perish with you. The gift of God may not be bought. Your heart is wicked in the sight of God. Repent, and pray that your sin may be forgiven."

As Philip was walking along the road from Jerusalem, he was overtaken by an Ethiopian officer riding in a chariot. The officer was returning from Jerusalem. As he rode along, he read from the Old Testament. Going near the chariot, Philip heard the Ethiopian reading, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The officer answered, "How can I, unless someone teach me?"

Then Philip began to explain and preach the word of God, telling the Ethiopian about Jesus. As they went along, they arrived at a place where there was water. The officer said, "See, here is water. What will prevent me from being baptized?" Philip answered, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The Ethiopian said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Philip took the officer down into the water and baptized him. After baptism, the Spirit of God took away Philip, and the officer no longer saw him.

This teaches us that we need the Church and priests of God to explain to us the meaning of the Bible.



Peter saw in a dream that God wished him to convert Gentiles, too. He therefore went with the three servants of Cornelius to Caesaria.

121. Peter Works Many Miracles

THE Church spread throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. Peter visited the churches, and came to the town of Lydda. There a man named Eneas had been sick of the palsy for eight years. Peter said to him, "Eneas, the Lord Jesus Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Immediately Eneas arose, cured.

In Joppe, which was near Lydda, there was a disciple named Tabitha, who had fallen sick and died. Peter went from Lydda to Joppe. Kneeling down, he prayed. Then he said to the dead disciple, "Tabitha, arise." She opened her eyes and sat up.

In the town of Caesarea there was a centurion called Cornelius, a very good man. He gave alms to the poor and often prayed to God. One day an angel appeared and told him to send for Peter.

Cornelius sent three servants to seek Peter in Joppe. Having seen in a dream that God wished him to convert Gentiles, too, Peter went with the servants to Caesarea.

Peter taught Cornelius and his household the doctrine of Jesus Christ. As he was speaking, the Holy Ghost came down

upon those who believed what they heard. They began to speak in different languages, like the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Peter baptized these Gentiles. The disciples glorified God, saying, "To the Gentiles God also gives repentance unto life."

Herod Agrippa, nephew of the Herod that had mocked Our Lord, put Peter in chains and cast him into prison. The disciples prayed for Peter without ceasing. In the night, an angel appeared to Peter, and led him out of prison.

Peter went to join the disciples, who were gathered together in prayer. When he knocked, a young girl went to open the door. Upon hearing Peter's voice, she was so happy that she forgot to open the door. She ran to tell the disciples, but they thought she had lost her reason.

When the disciples opened the door and saw Peter, they were full of wonder. They glorified God for having delivered the chief Apostle from prison.

From the time of the Apostles God has often manifested His power to protect His priests and missionaries.



Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, why do you persecute Me?"

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122. The Conversion of Paul

THERE was a man named Saul, who hated the Church. He went from house to house, dragging Christians to prison. He did everything he could to destroy the Church that Jesus founded.

Saul went to the highpriest and asked for letters to the synagogues of the city of Damascus. He wanted to take the Christians of that city to Jerusalem as prisoners.

On the way to Damascus, a bright light suddenly shone around Saul, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"

Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?"

The voice replied, "I am Jesus, Whom you persecute."

Saul trembled with fear and surprise. He asked, "Lord, what do you wish me to do?"

The voice answered, "Arise. Go to the city. There you will know what you must do." The men with Saul were surprised, because they heard the voice, but saw no man.

Saul rose from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see, for he had lost his sight. His companions led him

into the city of Damascus. Now in that city was a disciple named Ananias. God told him in a dream, "Go seek a man named Saul of Tarsus. I have chosen him to carry My Name to the Gentiles, and kings, and children of Israel."

Ananias went and found Saul. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, "The Lord has sent me, that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." Saul at once received his sight. Ananias then baptized him.

Saul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God. The Jews wanted to kill him. But the disciples at night let him down from the city wall in a basket. He escaped to Jerusalem, where he was received by the Apostles.

This man that was converted miraculously was the Apostle Paul. He became one of the greatest Apostles. He converted many pagans and is called the Apostle of the Gentiles.

One who has led a bad life in the past, can repent, be converted, and still do good, as St. Paul did.



The Holy Ghost made known that Paul and Barnabas were to do special work. The rulers of the Church imposed hands on them and sent them forth.



Wherever Paul went, he baptized and confirmed those that were converted. Many converts came to confess their sins to him.

123. Paul's First Missionary Journey

AT ANTIOCH, where Paul and Barnabas were preaching, the Holy Ghost made known that they were to do special work. The rulers of the Church therefore imposed hands on them and sent them forth.

Paul and Barnabas went to Seleucia, then to Cyprus. They preached throughout the island. At Paphos they met a magician, who tried to turn away the governor from receiving baptism. Paul struck the magician blind. The governor, Sergius Paulus, was converted and baptized.

Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch in Pisidia. Paul preached about Jesus, the Son of God. So many were converted that the Jews became envious, and a persecution was raised against the Apostles. Leaving the place, the Apostles went to Iconium, where they worked many miracles and made numerous converts. Here again they aroused the envy of some, who tried to stone them. They then fled to Lystra.

At Lystra, Paul cured a man lame from birth. Upon seeing the miracle, the people said, "The gods are here with us in the form of men."

They tried to offer sacrifice to the Apostles. But Paul said, "We are mortals, men like you. We have come to turn you away from false gods, to tell you of the Living God Who made all things."

Many were converted. Soon, however, Jews came from Antioch and Iconium. They began persecuting the Apostles, who therefore returned to Antioch.

And so the Church spread. Wherever Paul went, he baptized and confirmed those that were converted. He ordained priests in every church. Many converts came to confess their sins to him.

From the time of the Apostles, the Church has taught and practised the Sacraments instituted by Jesus. Today that Catholic Apostolic Church teaches the same Sacraments. It derives its doctrines and practices by an uninterrupted succession from its Founder, Jesus Christ, through the Apostles. It has kept all the doctrines of Jesus. Only the One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church has done this. Only that Church is True. For churches that do not obey Jesus must be false.



Paul said, "What you worship but do not know, I preach to you. He it is who gives life, and breath, and all things."

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124. Paul's Second Missionary Journey

SOME time after, Paul took another disciple, Silas, and set out again from Antioch. They preached in Syria, Cilicia, Phrygia, Lycaonia, Galatia, Mysia, and in almost all of Asia Minor. They visited the churches and commanded them to keep the teachings of Jesus. At Lystra Paul met Timothy, who followed him.

They went to Troas, then sailed to Philippi. Here Paul cast a devil out of a girl. The miracle angered her masters, who had been making money on her. The Apostles were brought before the magistrates, scourged, and cast into prison.

At midnight, as Paul and Silas prayed, there was a great earthquake. The doors of the prison flew open, and the chains of the prisoners were broken. Seeing these wonders, the keeper was converted and baptized with his household. In the morning, the magistrates learned that Paul was a citizen of Rome. They were afraid of being punished for having scourged a Roman citizen, and hurriedly set the Apostles free.

Paul and his companions visited other cities till they came to Thessalonica. Here

and in Berea they were persecuted. They escaped to Athens, the most famous city in Greece. Here Paul preached his famous sermon, "On the Unknown God", taking his text from the very words carved by the Athenians on a pagan altar.

Paul said, "What you worship but do not know, I preach to you. He it is Who gives to all life, and breath, and all things."

From Athens Paul went to Corinth. He told every one that Jesus was the Messiah. Many were converted. After a year and a half, he left Corinth, and returned to Antioch.

We see in the journeys of St. Paul the great things suffered by the Apostles for the sake of Jesus and His Church. They suffered in order to teach His holy doctrines. We ought to be ready to suffer in the same way for our Holy Faith. From Apostolic times many members of the Church have suffered for it. Many have led holy lives because of it.

The Church is always Holy — in teaching holy doctrines, in inviting to a holy life, and in the wonderful holiness of many of its children.



Throughout the world the Catholic Church is One in doctrine, One in faith, and One in obedience to a single Head, the Pope.

125. Paul's Third Missionary Journey

AFTER some time in Antioch, Paul left it once more, to go on his third missionary journey. He went through the greater part of Asia Minor, and at last came to Ephesus. Here he stayed two years, preaching the Kingdom of God.

Paul worked many miracles. Handkerchiefs that he had touched were taken to the sick and cured them. Therefore very many came to believe in the Religion that he taught. They received the Sacraments and became members of the Catholic Church.

At Ephesus, the teachings of Paul turned many away from the worship of idols. They no longer bought statues of false gods. The silversmiths of Ephesus, who made these statues, became enraged at Paul, and raised a great persecution against him. Therefore Paul was forced to leave Ephesus and go to Macedonia.

Paul went to Troas. While he was preaching late at night a young man sitting in a window fell asleep, fell down from the third story to the ground, and died. Paul bent over the dead man, and

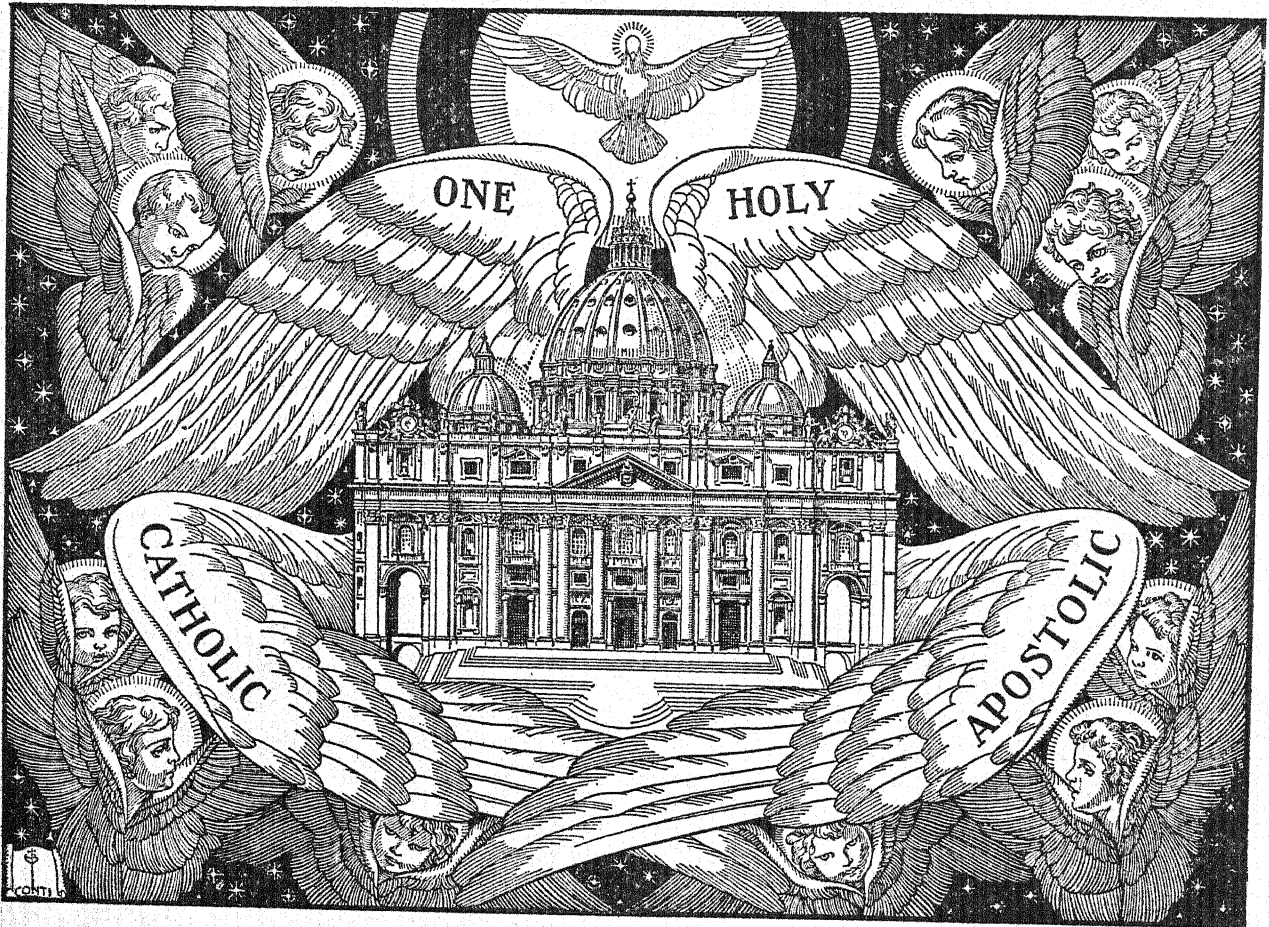
said to those around, "Do not be troubled. He is not dead." The young man was brought back to life.

Paul went to Lesbos, Chios, Samos, and Miletus. At this last place he sent for the men of the Church of Ephesus. He bade them farewell, saying that he was going to Jerusalem. To the bishops he said, "Take care of the flock that the Holy Ghost has given into your care. You rule the Church of God, which He purchased with His Blood."

We see how Paul obeyed the command of Jesus, "Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Today the Church still obeys that command, sending missionaries to convert pagan lands.

The Church reaches all parts of the world, and is truly Catholic, or universal. It is not for one nation alone. It is for all men, as Jesus died for all men.

And throughout the world, the Church is One in doctrine, One in Faith, and One in obedience to a single Head, the Pope.



The True Church of Jesus Christ is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. It will endure to the last day; the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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126 (a). Paul Goes to Rome

WHEN Paul came to Jerusalem, he was persecuted. The Jews dragged him out of the Temple, and would have killed him, if the Roman governor had not saved him by putting him in prison.

In the night, the Lord appeared to Paul, saying, "Be constant! As you have stood up for Me in Jerusalem, so must you stand up for Me in Rome."

Paul was taken to Caesarea, and kept in prison there for two years. Finally, being a Roman citizen, Paul appealed to the Emperor at Rome. He was sent to Italy for trial. On the voyage, the ship was wrecked at Malta. Paul and the others in the ship were saved only by a miracle. At Malta, Paul cured many sick, and worked miracles.

In Rome, Paul was kept in prison for two years. But even in prison, many went to him to be taught. From morning till night he preached to them the word of God. He also wrote to the many churches that he had established in the East, urging them to persevere in the Faith.

After two years of captivity, Paul was set free. However, in the year 67, the Emperor Nero raised a cruel persecution against the Christians. Paul was again cast into prison, and was finally beheaded. At the same time and the same place, Peter was crucified, with his head downwards.

All the other Apostles shed their blood for their faith in Jesus Christ. John was thrown into a caldron of boiling oil, but was miraculously saved.

(b). One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church

AFTER the death of the Apostles, their successors continued the work of extending the Church all over the world. The True Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. Jesus did not found many churches with different beliefs and practices. He founded only One Church, to

teach and preserve His doctrines until He comes again. He founded it on the rock of Peter, the first Pope.

That One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church will endure to the last day, as Jesus promised, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Questions for Study

1. THE CREATION.

- 1.—How long has God lived?
- 2.—Who made heaven and earth and all other things?
- 3.—What did God make on the 1st day? the 2nd day? the 3rd day? the 4th day? the 5th day? the 6th day?
- 4.—Out of what did God make man?
- 5.—What did God do on the 7th day?
- 6.—What must Catholics do on Sundays and holydays of obligation?

2. THE REVOLT OF THE ANGELS.

- 1.—What is meant by pure spirits?
- 2.—Why did God create Angels?
- 3.—What was the sin of Lucifer?
- 4.—Describe the revolt of the Angels.
- 5.—Who led the good Angels?
- 6.—How did God punish the bad angels?
- 7.—Name the nine choirs of Angels.
- 8.—Why did God give us Guardian Angels?

3. ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

- 1.—What name was given to the first man?
- 2.—Where did he live when he was first made?
- 3.—What two trees did God plant in the middle of Paradise?
- 4.—What command did God make about the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil?
- 5.—What is meant by free will?
- 6.—How did God make the first woman?
- 7.—Describe the life of Adam and Eve in Paradise.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

4. MAN'S FIRST SIN.

- 1.—What animal did Satan use to tempt Eve?
- 2.—How did the serpent tempt Eve?
- 3.—What should Eve have done when the serpent spoke to her?
- 4.—What was the sin of Eve and Adam?
- 5.—How did Adam and Eve feel as soon as they disobeyed God?
- 6.—What is original sin?
- 7.—How are we freed from original sin?

5. THE PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE.

- 1.—How did Adam and Eve confess their sins to God when He questioned them?
- 2.—What was the punishment God gave the serpent?
- 3.—What was the first promise of the Redeemer?
- 4.—What was the punishment of Eve? of Adam?
- 5.—How did God guard Paradise so that Adam and Eve could not return?
- 6.—Why do we suffer miseries on earth?

6. CAIN AND ABEL.

- 1.—Who were the first children of Adam and Eve?
- 2.—What were the occupations of Cain and Abel?
- 3.—Why did God refuse Cain's offering?
- 4.—Why did God accept Abel's offering?
- 5.—Did Cain confess his sin to God as Adam and Eve had done in Paradise?

- 6.—What was the punishment of Cain?

7. THE ARK OF NOE.

- 1.—Who was the son God sent Adam and Eve after the death Abel?
- 2.—What were Seth's sons called? Why?
- 3.—Why did the people on earth become evil?
- 4.—Why did God wish to destroy all men?
- 5.—Why did God wish to spare Noe?
- 6.—How did God plan to destroy mankind?
- 7.—What did God command Noe to do?

8. THE GREAT FLOOD.

- 1.—Describe the Great Flood.
- 2.—How did the flood come to an end?
- 3.—How were those in the Ark saved?
- 4.—How did Noe know that the waters were dried on the earth?
- 5.—What was God's promise to Noe?
- 6.—How was the Ark a figure of the Catholic Church?

9. THE TOWER OF BABEL

- 1.—Who were the three sons of Noe?
- 2.—What was the sin of Cham?
- 3.—Why did God punish the descendants of Noe?
- 4.—How did God punish them?
- 5.—Where did the descendants of each son of Noe settle?
- 6.—How do you explain the fact that today uncivilized tribes have traditions about a Supreme Being and a Great Flood?

10. THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM.

- 1.—What did God command Abram to do?
- 2.—What was God's promise to Abram, to reward him for his obedience?
- 3.—Why is Chanaan called "The Promised Land"?
- 4.—Why did God change the name of Abram to Abraham and of Sarai to Sara?

11. DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRHA.

- 1.—Why did Adam and Lot separate?
- 2.—Where did each go to live?
- 3.—Why did God wish to destroy Sodom and Gomorrha?
- 4.—How did Abraham intercede for the wicked cities?
- 5.—How were Lot and his family saved from destruction?
- 6.—Why was Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt?
- 7.—What was the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrha?

12. THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC.

- 1.—What was the name of the son of Abraham and Sara?
- 2.—Why did God wish to try Abraham's faithfulness?
- 3.—How did God plan to try Abraham?
- 4.—What did Abraham do to fulfill God's command?
- 5.—How did God save Isaac?
- 6.—How was Isaac a figure of Jesus Christ?

13. ELIEZER, THE FAITHFUL SERVANT.

- 1.—Why did Eliezer go to Haran?
- 2.—How did Eliezer know who was to be Isaac's wife?

14. ISAAC AND REBECCA.

- 1.—How did Laban receive Eliezer?
- 2.—Describe the first meeting of Isaac and Rebecca.

15. THE BROTHER'S BLESSING.

- 1.—How did the two sons of Isaac and Rebecca differ?
- 2.—How long Esau give away his birthright to Jacob?
- 3.—How did Jacob receive Esau's blessing?
- 4.—How were the Jews who crucified Jesus Christ like Esau?

16. JACOB'S DREAM.

- 1.—Why did Jacob decide to flee from Chanaan?
- 2.—Describe the dream of Jacob.
- 3.—What did God promise Jacob?
- 4.—How did Jacob commemorate that promise?
- 5.—How was the stone in Bethel a figure of our altars?

17. JACOB AND RACHEL.

- 1.—How did Jacob first meet Rachel?
- 2.—What was the agreement between Laban and Jacob?
- 3.—How did Jacob prosper in Haran?

18. THE RETURN OF JACOB.

- 1.—How long did Jacob stay in Haran?
- 2.—Why did he decide to return to Chanaan?
- 3.—Describe the meeting of Jacob and Esau?
- 4.—Why was Jacob called Israel?

19. THE COAT OF MANY COLORS.

- 1.—How many sons did Jacob have?

- 2.—Why were his brothers jealous of Joseph?
- 3.—Describe Joseph's dreams.
- 4.—How did Ruben save Joseph from death?
- 5.—Who suggested selling Joseph into Egypt instead of killing him?

20. JOSEPH IN PRISON.

- 1.—Why was Joseph sent to prison?
- 2.—What was the butler's dream? How did Joseph interpret it?
- 3.—What was the baker's dream? How did Joseph interpret it?
- 4.—How did actual events justify Joseph's interpretations?
- 5.—How was Joseph a figure of Jesus on the Cross?

21. THE KING'S DREAM.

- 1.—What were the king's two dreams?
- 2.—How did the king learn about Joseph?
- 3.—How did Joseph interpret the king's dreams?
- 4.—What was Joseph's advice to the king?

22. JOSEPH AS GOVERNOR OF EGYPT.

- 1.—Why did the king decide to make Joseph Governor of Egypt?
- 2.—What honors did the king bestow on Joseph?
- 3.—What did Joseph do during the years of plenty?
- 4.—What did he do when the people were suffering from hunger?
- 5.—Why did people from distant countries buy grain in Egypt?

23. JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS IN EGYPT.

- 1.—Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?
- 2.—Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they first met?
- 3.—What did Joseph want his brothers to do before he would set Simeon free?
- 4.—What did Jacob say at first about Benjamin's going to Egypt?
- 5.—Why did Jacob finally let Benjamin go?
- 6.—How did Joseph receive Benjamin?
- 7.—What did Joseph do to keep Benjamin with him?
- 8.—How did Joseph make himself known to his brothers?
- 9.—How was Joseph a figure of Christ forgiving our sins?

24. JACOB IN EGYPT.

- 1.—What did Joseph wish Jacob to do?
- 2.—What was God's promise to Jacob before he went to Egypt?
- 3.—Where did Joseph meet Jacob?
- 4.—How did Joseph's brothers and father live in Gessen?
- 5.—What was the blessing Jacob when dying gave to Juda?
- 6.—What was Jacob's prophecy about the time of the coming of the Messias?
- 7.—When was Jacob's prophecy fulfilled?

25. THE TRIALS OF JOB.

- 1.—What were the riches of Job?
- 2.—Why did God allow Satan to hurt Job?
- 3.—What losses did Job suffer at the hands of Satan?
- 4.—How did Job bear all his misfortunes?

- 5.—How is Job a figure of Jesus Christ?

26. THE REWARD OF PATIENCE.

- 1.—How did Satan hurt the person of Job?
- 2.—How did Job bear his new misfortunes?
- 3.—Why was Job's wife angry with him?
- 4.—Describe the faith of Job.
- 5.—How did God reward Job for his patience?

27. THE RESCUE OF MOSES.

- 1.—What were the descendants of Jacob called? Why?
- 2.—Why did the King of Egypt fear the Israelites?
- 3.—How did he treat them?
- 4.—What cruel order did the king give concerning the Israelites?
- 5.—How was the infant Moses saved from death?
- 6.—Who took care of Moses till he was grown up?

28. THE FLIGHT OF MOSES.

- 1.—Why was Moses unhappy in the palace?
- 2.—Describe the sufferings of the Israelites in Egypt.
- 3.—What caused the flight of Moses?
- 4.—How was Moses received in Madian?
- 5.—How long did Moses stay in Madian?

29. THE BURNING BUSH.

- 1.—What wonderful sight did Moses see on Mount Horeb?
- 2.—What did God say to Moses from the burning bush?
- 3.—What did Moses answer?
- 4.—What signs did God give Moses by which he could make the Israelites believe him?

- 5.—Whom did God tell Moses to take with him?

- 6.—How did the Israelites receive Moses and Aaron?

30. THE PUNISHMENT OF EGYPT.

- 1.—How did the King of Egypt receive Moses and Aaron?
- 2.—What more work did the King order the Israelites to do?
- 3.—How did the Israelites feel towards Moses when they were given more work?
- 4.—How did Aaron try to convince the king by signs?
- 5.—What were the nine plagues sent by God to punish Egypt?

31. THE FIRST PASCH.

- 1.—Why did God send the tenth plague upon the Egyptians?
- 2.—What was this last punishment to be?
- 3.—What did the Israelites do in order to escape the tenth plague?
- 4.—What did the king do after the tenth plague?
- 5.—How was the Paschal Lamb a figure of Our Lord Jesus Christ?
- 6.—How was the Feast of the Pasch similar to our Easter?

32. MIRACULOUS PASSAGE THROUGH THE RED SEA.

- 1.—How many Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land?
- 2.—How did God guide them on their journey?
- 3.—How is the pillar of cloud and fire a figure of Jesus Christ?
- 4.—Why did the King of Egypt pursue the Israelites?
- 5.—How were the Israelites saved from the Egyptians?

33. MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS.

- 1.—What did God bid Moses do to the bitter waters of Mara?
- 2.—Why did God send manna for the Israelites?
- 3.—On what days only could the Israelites gather manna? Why?
- 4.—For how long did God send manna?
- 5.—How was manna a type of the Blessed Sacrament?

34. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

- 1.—Where did God gather the Israelites to give them His commandments?
- 2.—How did God speak to the Israelites? How did they receive His words?
- 3.—What were the Ten Commandments God spoke on Mount Sinai?
- 4.—What feast did the Israelites celebrate to commemorate the descent of God on Mount Sinai?
- 5.—Why do Christians celebrate that feast today?

35. THE GOLDEN CALF.

- 1.—How long did Moses stay on Mount Sinai when God gave him the tables of the Commandments?
- 2.—What did the Israelites do in the absence of Moses?
- 3.—What did Moses do to the tables of stone when he saw the people worshipping the golden calf?
- 4.—How did Moses get the new tables of the Commandments?
- 5.—What command did God give Moses about keeping the tables of stone?

6.—What was the Ark of the Covenant?

7.—What was the Tabernacle?

36. THE TABERNACLE AND SACRIFICE.

- 1.—Describe the way the Tabernacle was built.
- 2.—How was the Ark a figure of our tabernacles today?
- 3.—What else in the Old sacrifices were types of what we have today in our churches?
- 4.—What two kinds of sacrifices were offered by the Israelites?
- 5.—Of what were these old sacrifices types?
- 6.—What is the only true sacrifice today?
- 7.—Name the chief feasts of the Israelites.
- 8.—What was the order of ministers?
- 9.—What was God's command about supporting priests? What is our obligation today towards the support of our priests?

37. THE TWELVE SPIES.

- 1.—Why did Moses choose twelve men to go to Chanaan?
- 2.—What report did these men bring back from the Promised Land?
- 3.—Who of the twelve spies were in favor of conquering Chanaan?
- 4.—Why did the Israelites murmur against Moses and God?
- 5.—How did God punish them for their ingratitude?
- 6.—How was Moses a figure of Our Lord?

38. MIRACLES IN THE DESERT.

- 1.—How did God send the Israelites water in the desert?

2.—Why did Moses strike the rock twice?

3.—What was his punishment for doubting God's word?

4.—What was that sin the Israelites were always committing in the desert?

5.—How did God punish them?

6.—How were the Israelites who were bitten by serpents cured?

7.—How was the serpent of brass a figure of Jesus Christ?

39. THE ARRIVAL AT THE PROMISED LAND.

- 1.—From what mountain did God show Moses the Promised Land?
- 2.—What books of the Bible were written by Moses?
- 3.—Who succeeded Moses as leader of the Israelites?
- 4.—What service did Rahab do for the two Israelite spies?
- 5.—How did the Israelites pass over Jordan to Jericho?
- 6.—How is the Promised Land a figure of Heaven?

40. THE TAKING OF JERICO.

- 1.—Describe how the Israelites took Jericho.
- 2.—Who alone were spared in the fall of Jericho? Why?
- 3.—What miracle did Josue perform to prolong the day and win a battle?
- 4.—Why were the children of Israel divided into twelve tribes?
- 5.—From what tribe did the Messias come?
- 6.—In the division of Chanaan which tribe was not given any land? Why?
- 7.—Why did the Israelites forget God?

41. THE VICTORY OF GEDEON.

- 1.—What were the early rulers of Israel called? How long did they rule?
- 2.—How was Gedeon chosen Judge?
- 3.—Describe how Gedeon defeated and drove away the Madianites.
- 4.—What did Gedeon say when the Israelites wanted him to be king?

42. THE STRENGTH OF SAMSON.

- 1.—For what was Samson known?
- 2.—Tell some events showing the strength of Samson.
- 3.—How did the Philistines find out the weakness of Samson?
- 4.—Tell the story of Samson's imprisonment.
- 5.—How did Samson meet his death?

43. THE FAITHFULNESS OF RUTH.

- 1.—How did Noemi come to live in the land of Moab?
- 2.—Why did she finally decide to return to her people in Israel?
- 3.—Why did Ruth wish to accompany Noemi?
- 4.—What did Ruth do during the harvest to help Noemi?
- 5.—How did Booz treat Ruth in his fields?
- 6.—Show how David came from Ruth.

44. SAMUEL AS JUDGE.

- 1.—Who were the parents of Samuel?
- 2.—How was Samuel promised by Anna to serve the Temple?
- 3.—Describe how God first called Samuel.
- 4.—Why did God punish Heli and his sons?
- 5.—How were they punished?

- 6.—Why did the Israelites ask Samuel for a king?

45. SAUL, FIRST KING OF ISRAEL.

- 1.—Why did God tell Samuel to anoint Saul?
- 2.—How did Saul forget God?
- 3.—What was Saul's punishment for sinning against God?
- 4.—How did David come to live in Saul's palace?
- 5.—Why did Saul finally come to hate David?

46. DAVID AND GOLIATH.

- 1.—Who was Goliath?
- 2.—What did Goliath propose to the Israelites?
- 3.—With what weapons did David fight Goliath?
- 4.—Describe the combat between David and Goliath.

47. KING DAVID.

- 1.—Why was Jerusalem called "The City of David"?
- 2.—How did David show his reverence for the Ark?
- 3.—Who wrote the beautiful Psalms?
- 4.—What promise did God make to David?

48. THE INGRATITUDE OF ABSALOM.

- 1.—How did David sin against God?
- 2.—What was David's punishment?
- 3.—Why did Absalom plot against David?
- 4.—How did David show his patience when he was cursed by Semei?
- 5.—How did Absalom meet his death?
- 6.—What is the lesson we learn from Absalom's death?

- 7.—How did David receive the news of Absalom's death?

- 8.—How was the sorrowful David a figure of Jesus Christ?

49. THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON.

- 1.—What did Solomon ask of God in the beginning of his rule?
- 2.—What reward did God give Solomon for his wise choice?
- 3.—What example can you give of Solomon's wisdom?
- 4.—Why did Solomon know the true mother?

50. THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON.

- 1.—For whom did David tell Solomon to build the Temple?
- 2.—What preparations did Solomon make for the building?
- 3.—How long did it take to build the Temple?
- 4.—Describe the "Holy of Holies"
- 5.—How did Solomon finally forget God?
- 6.—What was the punishment of Solomon and his people for having disobeyed God?

51. ELIAS, THE PROPHET.

- 1.—Why did God send Prophets to the Israelites?
- 2.—Who were the greatest of the Prophets?
- 3.—What did the Prophets foretell?
- 4.—What sin did King Achab commit against God?
- 5.—What punishment did God announce by Elias?
- 6.—How did Elias live during the famine?
- 7.—What miracle was worked by Elias for the widow's oil and meal?
- 8.—What miracle was worked by Elias on the widow's son?

52. THE MIRACLE OF THE FIRE.

- 1.—How did Elias propose to prove which was the True God?
- 2.—Describe what the 450 priests of Baal did to obtain fire.
- 3.—Tell the story of the miracle on the altar of Elias.
- 4.—How did the people look upon the miracle?

53. JONAS AND THE FISH.

- 1.—Why did God send Jonas to Ninive?
- 2.—Why did Jonas flee to the sea?
- 3.—What happened to the ship on which Jonas embarked?
- 4.—What was done to stop the storm?
- 5.—What happened to Jonas when he was cast into the sea?
- 6.—What was the message of Jonas to Ninive?
- 7.—Why did God spare Ninive?
- 8.—How did God show Jonas that the saving of Ninive was justified?
- 9.—How was Jonas a figure of Jesus Christ?

54. TOBIAS AND HIS SON.

- 1.—Why was the Kingdom of Israel destroyed?
- 2.—What works of mercy did the elder Tobias do among the captives?
- 3.—How did the elder Tobias lose his sight?
- 4.—What counsels did he give to his son?
- 5.—Who accompanied young Tobias on his journey?
- 6.—How did young Tobias find medicine for his father's eyes?
- 7.—Why did God send the angel Raphael to Tobias and his son?

55. JUDITH IN THE ASSYRIAN CAMP.

- 1.—What did the people of Bethulia decide when Holofernes besieged their city?
- 2.—What was the counsel Judith gave?
- 3.—What did Judith do to save her people from the enemy?
- 4.—How did the Israelites receive Judith upon her return?
- 5.—How were the Assyrians finally driven away?
- 6.—How was Judith a figure of the Blessed Virgin?

56. THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY.

- 1.—Describe the destruction of Jerusalem by Nabuchodonosor.
- 2.—Why did Nabuchodonosor have confidence in the wisdom of Daniel and his three friends?
- 3.—How did Nabuchodonosor reward Daniel?
- 4.—Why were Daniel's friends cast into the furnace?
- 5.—How did God save them?
- 6.—What was the effect of the miracle on Nabuchodonosor?

57. THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

- 1.—What sacrilege did Balthasar commit in the feast he gave?
- 2.—What wonderful thing happened at the feast?
- 3.—Where were the words written on the wall?
- 4.—How did Daniel interpret the writing on the wall?

58. DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN.

- 1.—How was the prophecy of the writing on the wall fulfilled?
- 2.—Why did the people of Babylon become angry at Daniel?
- 3.—What did the people do to Daniel?

- 4.—How was Daniel fed in the lions' den?

- 5.—What did Cyrus do when he saw Daniel still unhurt among the lions?

59. THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM.

- 1.—When did the Jews return to Jerusalem from Babylon?
- 2.—Who led them back to their land?
- 3.—What work did the Jews do on their return?
- 4.—How did the glory of the second Temple surpass that of the first?
- 5.—Who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem?
- 6.—Who was the last of the Prophets?
- 7.—What did he foretell about the Sacrifices of the Old Law?
- 8.—How was this prophecy fulfilled?
- 9.—How was the Ark of the Covenant a figure of our tabernacles.

60. QUEEN ESTHER BEFORE THE KING.

- 1.—Why did Mardochai sit near the gate of the palace?
- 2.—What service did Mardochai do the king?
- 3.—Why did not Mardochai wish to bow before Aman?
- 4.—What did Aman resolve to do in revenge?
- 5.—What did Mardochai do to save the Jews?
- 6.—Why was it brave of Esther to come before the king?
- 7.—How did Assuerus remember the service done him by Mardochai?

61. THE PUNISHMENT OF AMAN.

- 1.—Who advised the King to grant honors to the one who had served well?
- 2.—Why did Aman give such advice?
- 3.—What did Aman have to do for Mardochai?
- 4.—What did Queen Esther ask the King at the banquet?
- 5.—What judgment did the King pass on the proud Aman?
- 6.—How was Esther a type of the Blessed Virgin?

62. ELEAZAR, MAN OF FORTITUDE, MARTYRDOM OF SEVEN BRETHREN AND THEIR MOTHER.

- 1.—Although foreigners conquered the Jews, still who governed them directly?
- 2.—What harsh laws were ordered by Antiochus?
- 3.—Who was Eleazar?
- 4.—Why was Eleazar martyred by Antiochus?
- 5.—Why were the seven brethren and their mother martyred?
- 6.—How did the mother prove herself a good mother?

63. MATHATHIAS AND JUDAS MACHABEUS.

- 1.—What did Mathathias do in order to deliver the Jews from Antiochus?
- 2.—What advice did he give his sons upon his death?
- 3.—What success did Judas Machabeus have against the Syrians?
- 4.—How was Antiochus punished by God for his wickedness?

64. THE PROMISE OF THE REDEEMER.

- 1.—Why was there a need of the Redeemer?

- 2.—What was the promise of Jacob to Juda?

- 3.—Why was the time already come for the coming of the Messias?

- 4.—Who came to fulfill the many promises of a Redeemer?

THE NEW TESTAMENT

65. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S BIRTH.

- 1.—What were Zachary and Elizabeth continually asking from God?

- 2.—What did the Angel announce to Zachary?

- 3.—How did Zachary receive the word of the Angel?

- 4.—What was the punishment of Zachary for having doubted?

- 5.—Who was the son of Zachary and Elizabeth?

66. THE ANNUNCIATION.

- 1.—Where did Mary and Joseph live?

- 2.—What were the first words of the Angel to Mary?

- 3.—What did the Angel announce to Mary?

- 4.—What was the answer of Mary?

- 4.—What happened as soon as Mary gave this answer?

- 6.—Can we understand this mystery? Why do we believe it?

- 7.—When is the Feast of the Annunciation celebrated?

67. THE VISITATION.

- 1.—Why did Mary go to visit Elizabeth?

- 2.—What did Elizabeth say to Mary when she saw her?

- 3.—What is the "Magnificat"?

- 4.—How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth?

- 5.—When did Zachary become able to speak once more?

68. THE NATIVITY.

- 1.—Who ruled the Jews at the time?

- 2.—Why did the Emperor wish the people to be counted?

- 3.—Why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem to be counted?

- 4.—How were Mary and Joseph received in Bethlehem?

- 5.—Where was Jesus born?

- 6.—What lesson do we learn from this?

69. THE SHEPHERDS. THE PRESENTATION.

- 1.—How did the Shepherds come to know of the Birth of the Lord?

- 2.—What was the message of the Angels?

- 3.—Describe the way the shepherds adored Jesus.

- 4.—What was the Presentation?

- 5.—Whom did Mary and Joseph see in the Temple?

- 6.—Did Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus as the Messias?

70. THE THREE WISE MEN.

- 1.—Where did the Wise Men come from?

- 2.—How did they know the Redeemer was born?

- 3.—How did they find the way to Jerusalem?

- 4.—Why was Herod disturbed?

- 5.—What gifts did the Wise Men bring Jesus?

- 6.—What is the best gift we can give Jesus?

71. THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

- 1.—Why did Herod order the killing of the Innocents?

- 2.—How did Jesus escape being killed?

- 3.—When did the Angel tell Joseph to leave Egypt and return home?

- 4.—Where did Jesus spend His youth?
- 5.—What lesson do we learn from the childhood of Jesus, when he lived in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph?

72. THE CHILD IN THE TEMPLE.

- 1.—Why did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old?
- 2.—Why did not Joseph and Mary at once notice the loss of Jesus?
- 3.—Where did they finally find Him?
- 4.—What did Jesus say to His Mother?
- 5.—What sacrifice must we be ready to make, for the love of God?

73. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

- 1.—Where had John the Baptist lived before his public life?
- 2.—Where did he preach his message?
- 3.—What was the message he preached?
- 4.—Why did John baptize?
- 5.—How did John predict the coming of Jesus?
- 6.—Why did John baptize Jesus?
- 7.—What happened when Jesus was baptized?
- 8.—What happened when we are baptized?

74. JESUS IS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL.

- 1.—Tell how Satan tempted Jesus.
- 2.—How did Jesus answer Satan?
- 3.—What did John say to the crowds when he saw Jesus coming?

75. THE FIRST DISCIPLES.

- 1.—Who were the first two disciples?
- 2.—How did they come to follow Our Lord?
- 3.—What did Jesus say to Simon? Did Simon understand Jesus?
- 4.—What did Jesus say to Philip?
- 5.—How did Nathanael come to believe in Jesus, and to follow Him?

76. JESUS WORKS HIS FIRST MIRACLE.

- 1.—Why did Jesus go to Cana?
- 2.—Why did Mary pity the bridegroom?
- 3.—What did Mary say to Jesus?
- 4.—How did Jesus work the miracle?
- 5.—What does Jesus teach by working the miracle at the request of Mary?
- 6.—How was this first miracle the beginning of the public life of Our Lord?

77. JESUS DRIVES THE SELLERS OUT FROM THE TEMPLE.

- 1.—Why was Jesus displeased at the sellers in the Temple?
- 2.—What did He do to drive them out?
- 3.—What did He answer when the Jews asked Him to show them a sign of His authority?
- 4.—Who were the Pharisees?
- 5.—Who were the Scribes?
- 6.—Why did Jesus go among publicans and sinners?
- 7.—Why did the Jews despise Samaritans?

78. JESUS SPEAKS TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN.

- 1.—Why was the Samaritan woman surprised when Jesus spoke to her?

- 2.—What did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman?
- 3.—What did the Samaritan woman tell her friends?
- 4.—What were the synagogues?

79. JESUS WORKS MANY MIRACLES.

- 1.—What did the people of Nazareth do when Jesus said He was the Messiah? What did they want to do to him?
- 2.—How did Jesus cure the ruler's son?
- 3.—How did Jesus cure the man with the evil spirit?
- 4.—What did Jesus do to cure Simon Peter's mother-in-law?
- 5.—What good did Jesus do for all who came to Him?

80. JESUS HEALS THE MAN SICK WITH Palsy.

- 1.—Why could not the sick man enter by the door?
- 2.—How did his companions bring him near to Jesus?
- 3.—What did Jesus say to the sick man?
- 4.—What fault did the scribes find in the words of Jesus?
- 5.—What did Jesus do to show them He had power to forgive sins?
- 6.—What Sacrament did Jesus later institute to give His disciples the power to forgive sins?

81. JESUS CHOOSES HIS TWELVE APOSTLES.

- 1.—Name the twelve Jesus chose to be His Apostles.
- 2.—What powers did Jesus give His twelve Apostles?
- 3.—What warning did Jesus make when he sent them forth?

82. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

- 1.—What are the "Eight Beatitudes"?
- 2.—Did Jesus teach us to love our enemies? Why?
- 3.—What did Our Lord mean by false prophets?

83. JESUS CURES THE CENTURION'S SERVANT. JESUS RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON.

- 1.—Who were the centurions?
- 2.—Why did the centurion not ask Jesus to come to his house to cure his servant?
- 3.—Why was Jesus pleased with the Centurion?
- 4.—How did Jesus raise the widow's son to life?
- 5.—What did the people say when Jesus raised the widow's son?

84. JESUS FORGIVES MARY MAGDALEN.

- 1.—What did Simon, the Pharisee, think of Jesus?
- 2.—Why did Our Lord forgive Mary Magdalen?
- 3.—What do we learn from Mary Magdalen's story?
- 4.—Who can forgive sins?

85. JESUS CALMS THE STORM. THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISHES.

- 1.—Why did Jesus rebuke His disciples when they were afraid of the storm?
- 2.—How did Jesus calm the storm?
- 3.—What had Peter caught before Jesus told him to let down his net?
- 4.—What did he catch when he obeyed Jesus?

- 5.—How did Jesus predict Peter's future work?

86. JESUS RAISES THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS.

- 1.—How did Jairus show his faith in Our Lord?
- 2.—Why did the people laugh at Jesus when He said the girl was only asleep?
- 3.—How did Jesus raise the dead child to life?

87. JESUS MULTIPLIES THE LOAVES OF BREAD.

- 1.—Why did Jesus need bread to give to the people?
- 2.—How many were present the first time?
- 3.—How many loaves of bread and fishes were there?
- 4.—What miracle took place on the bread and fishes?
- 5.—How much was left after all had eaten?
- 6.—The next time Jesus worked this miracle, how many loaves of bread were multiplied?
- 7.—Of what is the miracle of the multiplication of bread a symbol?

88. JESUS PROMISES BREAD HEAVEN.

- 1.—What did Jesus say about the Bread of Life?
- 2.—What doubt did the Jews have about the words of Jesus?
- 3.—What did Jesus say about His Flesh and His Blood?
- 4.—What Sacrament was promised in these words of Jesus?
- 5.—Why did some disciples leave Jesus?
- 6.—What did Peter answer when Jesus asked if the Apostles would abandon Him?

89. JESUS GIVES THE KEYS TO PETER.

- 1.—What was the answer of Peter when in Cesarea Philippi Our Lord asked His Apostles who He was?
- 2.—What did Jesus answer?
- 3.—What is the meaning of Our Lord's words to Peter?

90. THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS. JESUS CURES A MAN POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL.

- 1.—Which of the Apostles saw the Transfiguration?
- 2.—Describe what they saw.
- 3.—What did God the Father say from the cloud?
- 4.—Why could not the disciples cure the demoniac?

91. JESUS FORGIVES A SINFUL WOMAN.

- 1.—What was the punishment for the sinful woman according to the Law?
- 2.—Why was Jesus sorry for the sinner?
- 3.—What did Jesus say when the Pharisees urged him to judge the woman?
- 4.—What effect had the answer of Jesus on the scribes and Pharisees?
- 5.—What did Jesus say to the woman?

92. JESUS HEALS THE MAN BORN BLIND.

- 1.—How did Jesus heal the man blind from birth?
- 2.—What effect had this cure on the man's neighbors?
- 3.—What did the cured man say to those who would not believe in the power of Jesus?

93. JESUS IN THE HOUSE OF MARY AND MARTHA.

- 1.—How did Mary and Martha act in the presence of Jesus?
- 2.—Which way did Jesus say was better?
- 3.—What thing should first of all receive our attention and care?
- 4.—Did He mean that we should not also attend to material things? To what extent only should we care for them?

94. JESUS RAISES LAZARUS.

- 1.—How long had Lazarus been buried before Jesus came?
- 2.—How did Martha and Mary show their faith in Our Lord?
- 3.—Why did Jesus say He was the Resurrection and the Life?
- 4.—How did Jesus raise Lazarus to life?

95. JESUS CALLS THE CHILDREN.

- 1.—How did Jesus show His love for children when His disciples sent them away?
- 2.—What qualities of children should we cultivate, that we may be like them?

96. JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

- 1.—What is the difference between the Good Shepherd and the hireling?
- 2.—What did Jesus mean by saying that He had other sheep not in the fold?
- 3.—How did Jesus explain His going among publicans and sinners?

- 4.—What story did Jesus tell to show how much God desires the repentance of a sinner?

97. THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND COCKLE.

- 1.—What is a parable?
- 2.—Tell the story of the wheat and cockle.
- 3.—How did Jesus explain the meaning of this parable?
- 4.—What story did Jesus tell to predict the growth of His Church?

98. THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT.

- 1.—How often should we forgive our enemies, according to Our Lord?
- 2.—Tell in your own words the story of the unmerciful servant.
- 3.—What lesson do we learn from this parable?

99. THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

- 1.—What must we do to possess eternal life?
- 2.—Tell the story of the Good Samaritan.
- 3.—What lesson do we learn from this parable?

100. THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON.

- 1.—Why did Jesus tell the story of the Prodigal Son?
- 2.—Tell the parable in your own words.
- 3.—What lesson do we learn from this story?

101. THE PARABLE OF DIVES AND LAZARUS.

- 1.—Tell the story of Dives and Lazarus.
- 2.—What lesson did Jesus teach in this parable?

102. THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN.

- 1.—How did the Pharisee pray?
- 2.—How did the Publican pray?
- 3.—Who made the better prayer? Why?
- 4.—What prayer did Jesus teach His disciples?
- 5.—How did Jesus show that we should pray God with confidence?
- 6.—When should we pray?

103. JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM.

- 1.—How did Jesus enter Jerusalem?
- 2.—What did the people cry out as they followed Him?
- 3.—Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
- 4.—Why did the Pharisees plot against Jesus?
- 5.—With whom did the chief priests, scribes, and elders agree to capture Jesus?
- 6.—For how much did Judas Iscariot sell Our Lord?

104. JESUS WASHES THE FEET OF THE APOSTLES.

- 1.—What feast did Jesus wish to celebrate with His disciples?
- 2.—What preparations were made for the Supper?
- 3.—What lesson did Jesus teach His Apostles when He washed their feet?

105. JESUS INSTITUTES THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.

- 1.—What words did Jesus say after blessing the bread?
- 2.—What words did He say after blessing the wine?
- 3.—What did Our Lord accomplish when He did these things?
- 4.—Today, what happens to bread and wine when the priest pronounces these words?
- 5.—Where did the priests get this wonderful power?
- 6.—What do we partake of when we go today to Holy Communion?
- 7.—What two prophecies were made by Our Lord in the last Supper?
- 8.—What was the "New Commandment" given by Our Lord to His Apostles?

106. THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN.

- 1.—What Apostles did Jesus take with Him to the garden?
- 2.—What prayer did Jesus say?
- 3.—How many times did Jesus say this prayer?
- 4.—What did the Apostles do while Jesus prayed?
- 5.—Who led the soldiers that came to take Jesus prisoner?
- 6.—What sign did Judas give the soldiers so they would recognize Jesus?
- 7.—What happened to the crowd when Jesus said, "I am He"?

107. PETER DENIES JESUS.

- 1.—What did Jesus say when Peter cut off the ear of Malchus?

- 2.—What did the disciples do when the soldiers bound Jesus?
- 3.—Which of the Apostles followed Jesus, a long way off?
- 4.—How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
- 5.—How did he remember the prediction of Our Lord about his denying Him?
- 6.—What effect did the crowing of the cock have on Peter?

108. JESUS IS TAKEN BEFORE CAIPHAS.

- 1.—What did the Sanhedrin do in order to condemn Jesus to death?
- 2.—What did Caiphas ask Our Lord?
- 3.—What answer did Jesus give?
- 4.—What decision did the Council make?
- 5.—How did the soldiers treat Jesus till morning?
- 6.—Why did the Jews have to bring Jesus to Pontius Pilate?

109. JESUS IS TAKEN BEFORE PILATE.

- 1.—What accusations did the Jews bring against Jesus before Pilate?
- 2.—When Pilate asked if He was King, what did Our Lord answer?
- 3.—What did Pilate wish to do with Jesus, at first?
- 4.—Whom did the Jews prefer to Jesus?
- 5.—Why did Pilate wash his hands?

110. THE CROWN OF THORNS.

- 1.—What did the soldiers do to Jesus after they had scourged Him?
- 2.—What did Pilate say when he

brought out Our Lord dressed in the purple garment and wearing a crown of thorns?

- 3.—What did the Jews say that caused Pilate to condemn Jesus to death?

111. THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

- 1.—What did Jesus have to suffer carrying the Cross to Calvary?
- 2.—Whom did the Jews force to help carry the Cross, when he became afraid Jesus would die on the way?
- 3.—How many people whom Jesus had helped came to His aid when He was carrying His Cross?
- 4.—What did Jesus say to the women who wept?
- 5.—What did the soldiers do to Our Lord when they reached Calvary?
- 6.—Who were crucified with Jesus?
- 7.—How did Jesus pray for all that hated Him?
- 8.—Why did Jesus suffer all this pain?

112. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS.

- 1.—What did the good thief say to Our Lord?
- 2.—What did the bad thief say?
- 3.—And what request did Jesus make?
- 4.—Tell how Jesus gave us His Mother for our Mother also.
- 5.—What unusual events happened when Jesus died?
- 6.—What flowed out of the side of Jesus when the soldier pierced it with a spear?
- 7.—What were the seven words of Jesus on the Cross?
- 8.—Why did Jesus die on the Cross?

113. THE RESURRECTION.

- 1.—What disciples took down the Body of Our Lord from the Cross?
- 2.—What did the Blessed Virgin and these disciples do to prepare the Body for burial?
- 3.—Where did they lay the body?
- 4.—How was the sepulchre closed?
- 5.—Why were the Pharisees careful to have the sepulchre properly guarded?
- 6.—Why did the women come to the sepulchre?
- 7.—What did they see there?
- 8.—When did Jesus rise from the dead?
- 9.—What was the effect of the Resurrection on the Apostles?

114. JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALEN. JESUS APPEARS ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS.

- 1.—What did the Angel say to the three women who sought Jesus in the sepulchre?
- 2.—What did Mary Magdalen see when she stayed at the sepulchre?
- 3.—Why did Mary Magdalen weep?
- 4.—Who was the first person to whom Our Lord appeared when He was risen from the dead?
- 5.—What other persons saw Him soon, in other places?
- 6.—How did the disciples on the way to Emmaus know that the Man who walked and talked with them was Jesus?

115. JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES.

- 1.—When did Jesus appear to all the Apostles?

- 2.—What power did He then confer on His Apostles?
- 3.—What did Thomas say when the other Apostles told him they had seen the Lord?
- 4.—What did Our Lord say to Thomas when He appeared again?

116. JESUS MAKES PETER HEAD OF HIS CHURCH. THE ASCENSION.

- 1.—How did Jesus give Peter charge of His Church?
- 2.—In what words did Our Lord give the Apostles orders to teach and to baptize?
- 3.—How long did Our Lord say He would be with His Apostles?
- 4.—After the Resurrection how many days did Jesus remain on earth before ascending into Heaven?
- 5.—Who saw Jesus ascend to Heaven?
- 6.—Where is Jesus now?

117. THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST.

- 1.—How did the Apostles choose the one to take the place of Judas Iscariot?
- 2.—When was the day of Pentecost?
- 3.—What happened on that day?
- 4.—What did Peter say in his first sermon?
- 5.—How many were converted that first day?
- 6.—Why is the Church called Catholic?

118. PETER HEALS A MAN BORN LAME.

- 1.—How did Peter work the cure on the lame man?

- 2.—What did Peter say when the people wondered at the event?

- 3.—What did the chief priests do to Peter and John because of this cure?

- 4.—How did Peter act when he was questioned by the chief priests?

119. STEPHEN IS STONED TO DEATH.

- 1.—How well-known did Peter become as a result of the miracles he worked?
- 2.—What did the high priest do out of envy?
- 3.—What was the warning of Gamaliel?
- 4.—How many deacons were first chosen?
- 5.—What was their duty?
- 6.—Who was the first Christian martyr?
- 7.—Why was he stoned to death?
- 8.—What should we be ready to suffer for our Faith?

120. PHILIP BAPTIZES THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICER.

- 1.—Did the Apostles confer the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- 2.—What is the meaning of that Sacrament?
- 3.—What did Simon Magus wish to buy from the Apostles?
- 4.—How did the Ethiopian show he needed someone to explain Holy Scripture to him?
- 5.—What did Philip do after he had explained the word of God to the Ethiopian?

121. PETER WORKS MANY MIRACLES.

- 1.—What miracle did Peter work on Eneas?
- 2.—What miracle did he work on Tabitha?
- 3.—How did Peter learn that God wanted the Gentiles converted also?
- 4.—How did Peter escape when Herod Agrippa put him in prison?

122. THE CONVERSION OF PAUL.

- 1.—What did Saul of Tarsus do against the Church?
- 2.—How was Saul converted?
- 3.—Whom did God send to cure Saul of his blindness and to baptize him?
- 4.—Why is Paul called the Apostle of the Gentiles?
- 5.—What lesson does the conversion of Saul of Tarsus teach us?

123. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY.

- 1.—How do we know that the Church ordained priests from the very beginning?

- 2.—Why were Paul and Barnabas persecuted in Antioch?
- 3.—What places were reached by Paul in his first journey?
- 4.—Why did the people of Lystra wish to offer sacrifice to Paul?
- 5.—From whom does the Church derive its doctrine and its Sacraments?
- 6.—Why is the Church Apostolic?

124. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY.

- 1.—Where did Paul go in his second journey?
- 2.—Why were Paul and Silas cast into prison?
- 3.—How were they freed from prison?
- 4.—What sermon did Paul preach in Athens?
- 5.—Why is the Catholic Church Holy?

125. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY.

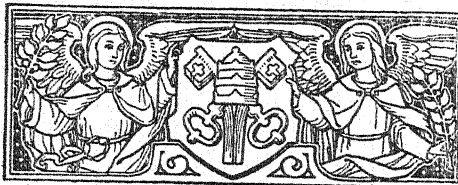
- 1.—Why did the silversmiths of Ephesus raise a persecution against Paul?
- 2.—How did Paul bring back to life the young man of Troas?

- 3.—What command did Paul make to the bishops of Ephesus?

- 4.—For what nation or nations did Jesus establish the Church?
- 5.—Why is the Church One?

126. PAUL GOES TO ROME. ONE HOLY CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH.

- 1.—How did the Roman governor save Paul in Jerusalem?
- 2.—What vision did Paul see, telling him of his future fate in Rome?
- 3.—Why was Paul finally sent to Rome?
- 4.—What did Paul do in prison at Rome?
- 5.—In whose reign was Paul beheaded?
- 6.—What other Apostle was crucified on the same day and place?
- 7.—How many of the Apostles were martyrs to their Faith?
- 8.—Explain the meaning of the term: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church.
- 9.—How long will God's Church endure?
- 10.—How long will the Holy Catholic Church be preserved from error?



PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY OF PROPER NAMES

THE DIACRITICAL MARKS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE USED IN WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY

ā as in āle	a as in tall	ē as in fērn	ô as in ôrb	û as in būrn
â as in câre	â as in âsk	î as in ice	ô as in ôdd	ōō as in mōōd
ā as in âct	ē as in ēve	î as in ill	ū as in ūse	oo as in fōot
ä as in ärm	ē as in ënd	ō as in ôld	ū as in ūp	ÿ as in pÿty

<p>A</p> <p>Aār'on A'bēl A'brā'hām Ab'sā-lom A'chāb Ad'am Ag-gē'us Al-phē'ūs A'man An'drew An'nā An'nas An'ti-ōch An-ti'o-chus A-rā'bia Ar-che-lā'us Ar-i-ma-thē'a A'sia Mī'nor As-su-ē'rus As-syr'i-a Ath'ens Au-gūs'tūs Cae'sar</p>	<p>Bār'na-bas Ba-rāb'bas Bēn'ja-min Ber-ē'a Be-thā'ni-ā Bēth'el Bēth'le-hem Beth-sā'be-ē Beth-sā'i-dā Beth-u'liā Bō'oz</p> <p>C</p> <p>Cāin Cā'i-phās Cā'nā Cā'leb Cal'va-ry Ca-phār'na-ūm Cath'o-lic Cēs-a-rē'ā Phī-lip'pi Cē'drōn Chām Chal-dē'ans Chā'naan Chī'os Christ'mas Ci-li'ci-a Cōr'inth Cor-nē'li-us</p>	<p>Cy-rē'ne Cy-prūs Cy'rūs</p> <p>D</p> <p>Da-lī'lā Da-mās'cus Dān'iel Dā-ri'us Dā'vid Dī'ves</p> <p>E</p> <p>East'er E'den E'gypt El-ca'na E-le-ā'zar E-li'as E-li-ē'zer E-liz'a-beth Em'ma-ūs E'ne-as Eph'e-sūs E'sau Es'dras Es'ther (-ter) E-thi-o'pi-an Eu'cha-rist Eve</p>	<p>G</p> <p>Gā'bri-el Ga-la'ti-a Gāl'i-lee Gēd'e-on Gen-nēs'a-rēth Gēn'tile Gēs'sen Geth-sēm'a-ne Go-lī'ath Gol'go-tha Go-mōr'rha Greece</p> <p>H</p> <p>Hāb'a-cūc Hā'ran Hē'brew (-brū) Hē'bron Hē'li Hēr'od Hōl-o-fēr'nes Hō'reb Hūs</p> <p>I</p> <p>I'saac (-zāk) I-sa'ias (-yas) Is'ra-el Is'ra-el-ite</p>
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J
 Jā'cob
 Jā'i-rūs
 Jā'phet
 Jēr-e-mī'as
 Jēr'i-chō
 Je-ru'sa-lēm
 Jeth'ro
 Jez'a-bēl
 Jōb
 Jōn'a-than
 Jō'nas
 Jōp'pe
 Jōr'dan
 Jō'seph
 Jōs'u-e
 Jū'da
 Jū'das Is-car-iot'
 Ju-dē'ā
 Jū'dith

L
 Lā'ban
 Lāz'a-rūs
 Lēs'bos
 Lē'vi
 Lē'vite
 Lib'a-nūs
 Lōt
 Lū'ci-fer
 Ly'cao'ni-a
 Lȳd'dā
 Lys'tra

M
 Mac-e-do'nia
 Māch'a-bees
 Māch-a-bē'us
 Mā'di-an
 Māl-a-chī'as
 Māl'chus
 Mal'-ta
 Ma-nas'ses

Ma'ne, The'cel, Pha'res
 Ma'ra
 Mār'do-chāi
 Mar'tha
 Ma'ry Māg-da-len
 Mat'thew
 Math-a-thī'as
 Mēdes
 Mēs-o-po-tā'mi-ā
 Mes-sī'as
 Mi'chael
 Mid'i-an
 Mi-le'tus
 Mir'i-am
 Mō'ab
 Mō'ses
 Mount Ho'reb
 Mount Mo-rī'āh
 Mount Nē'bo
 Mount Si'nāi
 Mount Si'on
 Mt. O'li-vet
 My'si-a

N
 Nā'im
 Nā'chōr
 Nā'than
 Na-thān'ael
 Nāz'a-rēth
 Nāb-u-chod-o-nō'sor
 Nē-he-mi'as
 Nē'ro
 Nic-o-dē'mus
 Nin'i-ve
 Nō'e
 Nō'e-mi

O
 O'bed
 Ol'i-vēt
 Or'phā

P
 Pa'phos
 Pāl'es-tīne
 Par'a-dise
 Pāsch
 Pas'chal Lamb
 Pas'sion
 Pass'o-ver
 Paul
 Pen'ta-teuch
 Pen'te-cost
 Per'si-a
 Pē'ter
 Phār'i-see
 Phil'ip
 Phi-lip'pi
 Phi-lis'tine
 Phrȳg'i-a
 Pi-sid'i-ā
 Pōn'ti-us Pi'late
 Psalms
 Pūt'i-phar

R
 Rā'chel
 Rā'gēs
 Rā'hab
 Rā'pha-el
 Re-bēc'cā
 Re-deem'er
 Rōb'o-ām
 Rome
 Rū'ben
 Ruth

S
 Sa-bē'ans
 Sa-lo'me
 Sā-mā'ri-a
 Sa-mā'ri-tan
 Sa'mos

Sām'u-el
 Sam'son
 San'he-drin
 Sa'ra
 Sa-reph'ta
 Sa'tan
 Saul
 Sa'viour
 Sel-eu'ci-a
 Sēm
 Sēm'e-i
 Sen-nāch'-e-rib
 Sēth
 Si'las
 Sim'e-on
 Si'mon
 Sōd'om
 Sōl'o-mon
 Ste'phen (-ven)
 Syr'i-a

T
 Tab'er'na-cle
 Tāb'i-thā
 Tar'sus
 Thad-de'us
 Thār'sis
 Thēs-sa-lo-nī'cā
 Thom'as
 Tīm'o-thȳ
 To-bī'as
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